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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

NEW RESOLUTIONS WORKED OUT BETWEEN SYRIA, IRAQ

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 139, 9-15 Oct 82 p 42

/Article: "One Positive Feature of the Fez Summit: The First Signs of a Syrian-Iraqi Reconciliation To End the Economic Rift between Damascus and Baghdad"/

/Text/ It appears that one of the undeclared achievements of the latest Arab summit conference in Fez has been the move toward a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement which the Iraqi president Saddam Husayn disclosed recently in a meeting a British press delegation held in Baghdad on 26 September.

The Iraqi president informed the British journalists of mediation which King Faisal had performed to bring him together with the Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad with the goal of clearing up the existing disputes between the two countries, and he declared his hope that a rapprochement would soon be arrived at with Syria.

Regardless of the national significance of any Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, at this stage specifically, one can assert that this rapprochement, in the event it moves toward a more positive stage, will lift from the shoulders of Arab countries an economic burden not just the two countries concerned but also all the countries the Arab Gulf have been bearing.

As far as Iraq goes, according to informed Arab diplomatic sources, the Gulf war, which has been going on for more than 2 years, has caused the government's gold and hard currency reserves to drop from about \$32 billion when the war began to about \$8 billion.

Last 9 April, following the closure of the Syrian-Iraqi borders, the pumping of Iraqi oil through the Kirkuk-Baniyas line was halted, causing Iraq to lose revenues from 500,000 barrels a day in exports which had been shipped out via the port of Baniyas.

Since exports from the Shatt-al-'Arab area have been cut off, Iraqi oil exports were confined to the Kirkuk-Dortyol line which passes through Turkish territory.

Although the maximum annual capacity of this line is 30 million tons, Iraq was pumping just 10 million tons to the Turkish port of Dortyol before the war. After the shutdown of the Baniyas line, that was raised only to about 22 million tons, in

view of the limited capacity of the port of Dortyol from the standpoint both of tanker accommodations and the storage facilities available in the port.

Since the annual rate of Iraqi expenditures on imports and major development projects is estimated at about \$25 billion, the restriction of oil exports to the Turkish Dortyol line has caused a reduction in Iraq's revenues to \$7.5 billion a year, making the Arab Gulf countries, in particular Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, bear the burden of offering long-term loans without interest to subsidize the Iraqi balance of payments. The value of these loans comes to about \$30 billion.

In the Syrian context, Western financial circles estimate that the Syrian treasury has been sustaining a loss of \$1 million a week through the closure of its borders with Iraq. These circles add that Syrian customs' daily losses from the suspension of receipts from trucks and shipments passing over Syrian territory toward Iraq come to \$100,000; to this one should add the loss of \$20,000 a day from berthing fees which cargo vessels had been paying to the Syrian ports.

Transit Activity

When the Syrian embargo of Iraq started, some transport firms tried to send cargoes to Iraq via Syria on the pretext that the country of final destination for these cargoes was Jordan. However, the Syrian authorities took note of this and took intensified measures requiring that documents be shown that included the Jordanian address for the final delivery of the goods. That caused this type of transit to stop and shipping activity from European ports to Latakia and Tartus dropped off and shifted to Turkish ports.

The extent of the material burden which Syria bears through the process of embargoing Iraq is apparent in the light of Syrian foreign trade statistics for 1981, which recorded a rise in the balance of trade deficit from 7,993,000,000 pounds in 1980 to 11.5 billion pounds in 1981. One should bear in mind that these figures do not include spending on military purchases. It is worth pointing out that for a few years Syria has been experiencing an import growth which greatly exceeds its export growth. That has led to a shortage of foreign reserves and a slowdown in the completion of major industrial projects. The Syrian government removed 10 percent of the allocations set aside for public spending in 1981 and 1982. Last August it raised the prices of major commodities, including fuel, by 10 percent. Recently the Arab Monetary Fund gave Syria a loan of \$9.7 billion to subsidize its balance of payments.

Thus besides its national dimension, which does not need mention, a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement will, in the event it is realized, provide tangible returns not just for Iraq and Syria but also for all the Arab countries that have supported Iraqi Arab efforts and the requirements of the Syrian perseverance on the Israeli front, and still are doing so.

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CSO: 4404/65

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF DISCUSSES LEBANON WAR, RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 719, 25 Oct 82 pp 24-26

[Interview With Brig Gen Abu al-Za'im, chief of Palestinian Military Intelligence, by Ihsan Bakr: "Interview With Chief of Palestinian Revolution's Military Intelligence; Lebanon's War Has Dropped Myth of Invincible Israeli Army; 750 Cases of Insanity and 4,000 Cases of Desertion From Israeli Army; Israel Has Failed To Liquidate Organization Politically and Militarily"; date and place not specified]

[Text] This is an interview with one of the PLO leaders who, along with the Palestinian strugglers in Lebanon, shouldered the brunt of confronting Israel by themselves throughout 77 days.

He has come to Egypt on an urgent and specific mission shrouded in full secrecy and has met with the high-ranking officials for open and frank discussions on Egyptian-Palestinian relations, the current Arab situation and the possibilities of a future political settlement.

It is an interview with one of the mainstays of the Palestinian command who planned and fought side by side with the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters.

It is an interview with Brig Gen Abu al-Za'im, an extraordinary military figure for the nature of the tasks he carried out. He is the Chief of the Palestinian military intelligence, a member of the Palestinian revolution's Supreme Military Council and a member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council.

The first question had to be on Egypt and Palestine, on where things are heading now that the estrangement has ended and on how the Palestinian leadership views relations with Egypt.

Egypt, he said to me, has civilization, history and size, meaning political, moral and military size before the population size. Egypt holds the leading role in Arab history and it has confronted the Tatars and the Mongols and ended the Crusader occupation of the important parts of the Arab homeland.

'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt, the Egypt of freedom, socialism and unity and the Egypt which has participated in all the liberation revolutions of the Arab homeland--this Egypt cannot but mean a lot to any Arab who respects himself, his nation, his homeland and his Arab affiliation. It is, first, the country and homeland of every Arab and, second, the contrary with the bright Arab history.

"Though certain circumstances have for a certain brief period confused the issues, the genuine character, history, pan-Arabism, army and people of Egypt will remain throughout history a hope to which every Arab turns to fulfill the crucial pan-Arab issues. This is what Egypt means to me and, I believe, to every honorable Arab and every Arab who believes in his Arabism."

Egypt, in our opinion, is not just for the Arabs but also for all the Muslims. It is a main base of freedom in the entire world. The Egypt which founded the Nonaligned Movement and led its procession under the leadership of 'Abd al-Nasir is the Egypt which has laid down the clear and evident principles of the pan-Arab struggle and the Egypt which has offered one group of martyrs after another in light of these goals and under its blessed guidance.

In our view, Egypt cannot change or alter, regardless of how hard the Arab nation's enemies try to undermine it with the aim of weakening the entire Arab nation before weakening Egypt.

I am confident that with all these values, Egypt will remain loyal to the principles of the Arab nation and will remain sincere in continuing on the path of the revolution and in leading the struggle with all its political and military aspects against every enemy and usurper hostile to our Arab nation, especially Israel.

Question Why are you in Cairo?

Answer How could I not be in Egypt when the first Arab vanguard to reach us in Beirut while we were standing fast and confronting the blockade was an Egyptian group?

Answer Egypt's role is fundamental and effective. This critical and dangerous phase which the Arab-Israeli conflict is undergoing requires exploring the views of the brothers in destiny on whatever concerns the Palestinian issue, especially the right to self-determination and the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Question If this is your evaluation of Egypt and its role throughout history—and this is a fact confirmed by geography before history and by the common interests before the bonds of language and heritage—then what, in your opinion, are the dimensions of the Egyptian role under the new regime and how do you view the responsible pan-Arab stances with which President Mubarak has confronted Israel's aggression against Lebanon as of the first days of the barbaric invasion?

Answer We look with confidence and faith to the role of Egypt's leadership and people in this delicate and dangerous phase through which the area is passing. Since the first moment of the invasion, President Mubarak took a responsible pan-Arab stance, condemning the invasion and all the barbaric Israeli actions. President Mubarak's decision to summon the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv has had a great impact on our people, and so have the official statements on creating a strategic balance in weapons and strength

between Egypt and Israel. All these stances taken by President Mubarak fully underline Egypt's genuine character and indicate that Egypt's political course in the current phase will be very different from what some people have tried to portray it.

It is our opinion that the Egyptian role will intensify and become stronger in the face of the Israeli greed in the Arab area. We believe that helping Egypt to develop its position toward the common Arab goals will require Egypt's resumption of its role, weight and action in the Arab nation.

We in the Palestinian revolution believe that it is necessary and important to unite the Arab ranks and that Egypt must remain a fundamental and leading factor in Arab ranks.

Our Arab nation's confidence in Egypt is big and the day when Egypt occupies its natural place in all the dimensions of the Arab nation's struggle is inevitably coming soon.

[Question] Brother Abu al-Za'im, how do you see the possibilities of a peaceful settlement in light of the projected plans, beginning with Reagan's plan and the Fez summit resolutions and ending with the total Israeli rejection?

[Answer] Let us go back a little. When the Palestinian revolution began, it charted the path of armed struggle not out of its desire to shed blood nor out of its thirst for wars but to restore the usurped right of the Palestinian people and to achieve the people's legitimate rights, including their right to determine their future and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

Therefore, the achievement of these objectives for the Palestinian people and their revolution at any time is the goal we are seeking.

At no time have we been or will we be against just and honorable peace. But we are against capitulation.

The unity of the Arab position, embodied in the Fez summit in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli war, is a position supported and sought by the Organization. We look forward to seeing this united Arab position embodied in a real situation that transfers the resolutions from paper to implementation and application.

Therefore, as the Arab leaders have formulated a strategy to move towards a settlement, there must be [words missing] so that the resolutions may not remain idle in dossiers.

All this unites Arab efforts and action in all spheres and at all levels.

We look forward to a new strategy for Arab action. Moreover, there are main Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which by virtue of their political, economic and psychological influence have a fundamental and effective role in spurring Arab action to achieve the Arab solution approved by the Fez summit.

[Question] The fabulous Palestinian steadfastness in the Lebanese war has had had its prominent role in resisting the Israeli invasion. You have stood fast in the face of Israel which is supported by the most sophisticated U.S. weapon arsenal. What are the lessons learned from the war?

[Answer] The most important lesson learned is that willpower and man are the fundamental element in reaching victory and destiny. We have confronted the enemy and his infernal machine with small numbers and primitive resources. Yet, our war in Lebanon has been the longest Arab-Israeli war and the most confusing and costly to the enemy, even though this enemy employed massive sea landing for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The enemy also used the airforce to its full capacity, not to mention the full 9 divisions it drove into the battlefield. As for the firepower used, it went beyond all imagination. Moreover, most of the weapons used are the latest invented by the United States. Lebanon has been a testing ground for these various kinds of weapons.

This is the first lesson, namely that willpower and the human element, not the machines and the weapons, play the decisive role in every battle.

The second lesson is that the Lebanese war has exposed the true character of the Israeli soldier.

The Palestinian steadfastness has dispelled the myth of an invincible army. On the contrary, the Israeli army is less daring than any Arab army. But the firepower and the infernal machine the Israeli army possesses created this reputation for this army in the past.

You ask me whether there is proof or whether these are just zealous words. I will hasten to point out that statistics in Israel have proven that there are 750 cases of insanity and hysteria in the Israeli army, in addition to 4,000 deserters, not to mention the big losses inflicted on the enemy's military and human machine. But I emphasize here the cases of insanity and desertion to prove that this army is not a fighting army by nature.

This enemy achieved superiority in the past because he sought to deal with the Arab fronts separately and has been able to create the conditions whereby he can concentrate his efforts on a single front, not numerous fronts. This is what the Arabs must be careful about, namely not to let the enemy deal with a single front separately.

The Palestinian leader went on to say:

The events of the Beirut battle attest to what we are saying, namely that the Israeli army, which people had claimed to be invincible, stood powerless and confused at the gates of Beirut for 3 months during which it could advance no more than a few meters while suffering enormous losses.

This enemy demonstrated his real goal, namely to storm and seize Beirut, which he did upon the departure of the last Palestinian fighter. This is proof that the enemy was unable to enter Beirut for purely military reasons and not due to the presence of political pitfalls preventing him from storming it, as he has claimed.

Why?

Because the political deterrents of entering a disarmed city are much greater than the danger of entering it in war and while its fighters are in it.

I don't know what political deterrents prevented the henchman Begin from entering the city throughout 3 months only to enter it after the Palestinian struggler's departure to kill children, women and old men and to record the most violent massacre in modern times—a massacre which has surpassed all the actions of the Nazis, the Fascists and criminal gangs.

The final lesson is that the Israeli-Palestinian war has proven the Zionist enemy's inability to liquidate the PLO politically or militarily. At the political level, the organization has emerged stronger after the war and I can assert that at the military level, it has gained new positions and has preserved its fundamental structure. We will continue to make progress in terms of training, armament and preparation in order to face any future eventualities.

You ask me: How? I hasten to say that on this particular point, I cannot reveal all our cards. I can only say that we are present and that the Palestinian number will continue to be a basic and indivisible number in the equation. There will be no solution to the Middle East problem without the restoration of our people's full rights.

Thus ended the interview with one of the Palestinian strugglers who shouldered the burden of the Beirut battle. The man departs Cairo to present his report on his mission to Egypt to struggling leader Yasir 'Arafat. Concluding his interview with me, Abu al-Za'im said: We relay to the Egyptian people all the feelings of friendship and appreciation. The coming days will hold extremely significant developments concerning the restoration of issues to their proper course.

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CSO: 4404/79

ISLAMIC EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE ORGANIZATION FOUNDED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Sep 82 p 5

[Article by Mahmud 'Abd al-Qadir: "Organization's General Director Declares in Kuwait: ISESCO Is New Islamic Organization To Make Up for UNESCO's Inability To Understand Islam"]

[Text] 'Abd al-Hadi Butalib has described the new Islamic Education, Science and Culture Organization (ISESCO) as a newborn that deserves care from the Arab and Islamic countries. He said that this organization's role will not nullify the role of similar organizations, such as (ALESCO) and UNESCO, and will be that of advice, guidance and coordination. He stressed that the organization is not a form of unjustified cultural luxury but that its presence is necessary to accomplish what UNESCO has been unable to do vis-a-vis Islam. He pointed out that the purpose of his current tour, which includes a number of Islamic countries, is to gather data and statistics for drawing up a plan for the organization's activities in the next 2 years. He also said that the organization's annual budget is \$4 million.

The above was stated at a press conference that Butalib in his capacity as the organization's director general held at 1700 yesterday at the Hilton Hotel. At the conference, Butalib spoke about his current tour of Arab and Islamic countries to explain the basic goals behind the formation of this new Islamic organization, which was approved by the Islamic countries conference held in Fez, Morocco, last May.

He began the news conference by expressing his pleasure at being in Kuwait where he has met with the minister of education and the minister of state for cabinet affairs and explained to them the goal behind the creation of the Islamic organization. The two ministers expressed understanding for the organization's role after he responded to their observations and questions.

Butalib asserted that the new organization has not been established to nullify the role of similar organizations, such as the Arab Education, Culture and Science Organization, but will coordinate among these organizations, offer advice and guidance and make recommendations to the Islamic and Arab governments outlining the need for implementing those projects that serve the Islamic countries. The organization will be called ISESCO.

The organization's goal is to perform the role that UNESCO has not been able to perform.

Butalib further asserted that UNESCO has admitted that it has made some mistakes because it has failed to understand Islam's role in the spheres of education, culture and the sciences. This is why ISESCO was formed.

New Organization's Agencies

'Abd al-Hadi Butalib added that the Islamic organization has an executive council whose task it is to monitor the organization's and general directorate's work and to keep an eye on the implementation of resolutions. The council is formed of the elected representatives of 9 Islamic countries out of the 43 Islamic [member] countries. The new Islamic organization's agencies also include the general directorate, headed by a director general assisted by an assistant general secretary who has not yet been appointed, and directorates of culture, of education and of sciences.

Egypt's Absence

Answering a question on Egypt's absence from this new organization, Butalib said: Egypt's absence is a transient thing that will ultimately vanish.

He added: Open [ghayr sirriyah] contacts are currently underway between a number of Arab countries and Egypt.

The Islamic organization's director general will visit Bahrain today and then Qatar, the UAE and Jordan within the framework of his tour for the same purpose. Next month, he will visit Pakistan, Malaysia and a number of African countries.

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CSO: 4404/6

COOPERATION COUNCIL MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY DISCUSS INTEGRATION PLANS

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 723, 27 Oct-2 Nov 82 pp 18-20

[Article: "Meetings of Cooperation Council Ministers of Industry: Another Step Toward Industrial Integration Among Gulf States"]

[Text] While the Arab ministers of industry were arriving in al-Ta'if to attend their third conference, the Cooperation Council ministers of industry were concluding their meetings which sought fundamentally to achieve the largest degree of industrial integration among the Council's six member states.

The past few weeks have witnessed concerted movement within the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] at the level of the Council's specialized committees and various technical agencies.

The action has constituted the holding of a number of conferences and meetings which covered all issues of cooperation, coordination and integration among the GCC's six member states. Thus, they can be considered tantamount to a preparation for the third Gulf summit which will be hosted by Manama in 2 weeks.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has had the lion's share in hosting most of the conferences and meetings held recently. Excluding the conferences of the ministers of oil, of those in charge of cement, media censorship, and of the Joint Committee for Pharmaceuticals, the kingdom has hosted the other conferences, beginning with the meetings of the undersecretaries of housing, the ministers of defense, the ministers of interior, the port officials conference, the conference of the directors of the audit and accounting bureaus and ending with the ministers of industry conference.

This final conference is considered a major step in the sphere of Gulf industrial coordination and in the sphere of industrialization generally, considering that it has discussed numerous topics related to this crucial field, including the creation of joint Gulf industries shared by the member states, especially petrochemical, steel and iron and aluminum industries.

The conferees devoted major attention to studying the various methods of concluding contracts for technology and for the purchase of raw materials, to coordination in the field of marketing, to the exchange of experiences and to the distribution of the industries throughout the member states.

The conference's goal was not just coordination but also to lay down the mainstays of the Gulf industries and to translate the provisions of the unified economic agreement concluded by the Council member states into a tangible reality in the field of industry, as Muhammad al-Zubayr, the Omani minister of industry, has said.

With united and harmonious thinking, the meetings started with an address he delivered by Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, the minister of industry and electricity, who pointed out in his word that the procession of industrial cooperation in the Gulf has taken in the past few months a stride forward in accomplishment that have exceeded the expectations because the unified economic agreement signed by the Council's member states is capable of opening the door wide for a unified Gulf market.

Regarding the nature of the committee's task, his excellency pointed out that the committee's fundamental task is to prevent quality and to achieve the largest degree of integration among the Council's member states in the industrial sphere.

It was natural that the meetings would be preceded by the meetings of the conference's preparatory committee which included the undersecretaries of industry in the member states. This committee defined the topics of discussion in the following 7 points:

The bylaws of the ministerial committee and the system of exchange of information between the member states.

The means to set up joint Gulf industries and the spheres of these industries.

Discussing and examining the various methods to conclude contracts for the proper type of technology and for the purchase of raw materials.

Discussing the conclusions reached by the conference of the basic industries officials which convened a few days before the conference.

The methods and problems of commercial and industrial marketing and of the exchange of expertise.

The possibility of setting up industries to produce the spare parts needed by the basic industries in the Council member states.

Setting up a regional Gulf research and technology center to participate in developing the human resources and establishing a base for trained labor.

The success achieved by the conference of the other committees emanating from the Cooperation Council motivated the conferees to emerge with recommendations realizing the hopes attached to their conference.

Through serious and sincere efforts to achieve the goals for which the GCC was created, the ministers adopted a number of resolutions announced at the conclusion of the conference by Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi at the press conference

he held last Monday. Perhaps the most important of these resolutions is the resolution approving the draft bylaws governing the committee's future work.

To bolster integration among the Council member states and to cement their industrial ties, the committee decided to refer a recommendation to the Supreme Council to adopt a resolution requiring all the Council member states to use the products of the area's basic industries in their government projects. The committee also recommended the creation of a unified Gulf center for standards and measurements and banning the construction of new cement factories in the area's states until the study being conducted by the secretariat on this issue is completed.

It was natural for the committee to discuss a future work plan for industrial development. The committee approved the main principles contained in the working paper presented by Kuwait and entrusted the Council's General Secretariat to transform these principles into a work plan after consultation and coordination with the member states.

The topic of protecting and encouraging national products received special attention because of its importance and the General Secretariat has been entrusted with conducting a detailed study on five basic industries, namely: Cement, aluminum, iron, copper and asbestos, provided that the secretariat study protecting these industries by virtue of their being basic industries that concern the area's states.

The resolution to establish an information center in coordination with the information center of the Gulf Industrial Consultation Organization and to give priority in all the industrial studies to the area's expertise houses and to the professors in the Gulf universities comes to translate clearly the determination to enable the area to meet all its expertise and data needs intrinsically.

Moreover, the committee's decision to entrust the secretariat to conduct a study on setting up joint industries throughout the area in the drug and housing sectors, in the secretion of fuels for generating power and in the construction materials sector in cooperation with the authorities concerned materializes the big hopes for setting up these industries in the area in an effective way.

The press conference held by Dr al-Qusaybi has shown that the future holds many of the elements of success for the procession of cooperation among the Gulf states, considering that when application of the unified economic agreement starts, the spread of industry from each country to the other countries will be realized.

It remains to be said that the success realized by the GCC member states will undoubtedly leave an impact on the Arab cooperation procession generally.

This is because the model provided by the Gulf cooperation has proven the effectiveness and ability of the Arab countries to establish organized and well-studied action.

The Gulf ministers of industry have undoubtedly carried to the Arab ministers of industry conference, which started its proceedings yesterday (Tuesday), impressions and convictions emanating from experience.

What is required is to utilize this experience so that the Arab ministers of industry may come up with resolutions that are no less important and effective than the resolutions produced by their colleagues the ministers of industry of the GCC member states.

Glimpses From Conference

Kuwait was absent from the council's meetings.

Red-colored identity cards were issued to the journalists. Such cards were previously designated for the ministers.

The security officials did not comprehend the nature of the role of the press despite mediation of members of the media.

The conference decided to hold the final session as a closed session. Consequently, it became an extension of the final working session which started at 0900 in the morning.

Dr al-Qusaybi held a press conference after seeing off the ministers of the Sultanate of Oman and of the UAE.

Dr al-Qusaybi proved his extreme skill and intelligence during the press conference when he reviewed all the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the council without resorting to reading the written recommendations.

One of the conference's most significant resolutions is the resolution calling for devoting attention to the cement, aluminum, iron and copper industry.

The Omani press representative brought up a question on the craft industries, the only point not discussed by the conference.

Al-Qusaybi was surprised by the journalists' precise questions and wondered if he is entitled to ask the journalists some questions on some unknown industrial aspects.

Commenting on a lengthy question asked by AL-JAZIRAH newspaper, Dr al-Qusaybi said that the question is an encyclopedia which he cannot answer.

Yusuf al-Shirawi, the minister of industry of the fraternal Bahrain, was seen roaming al-Masarrah Hotel halls contentedly after the council's final session.

The conference's information organization was excellent.

8494

CSO: 4404/79

WAVE OF DESERTIONS HITS SOVIET ARMY

Brussels SPECIAL L'EVANTAIL in French No 140, 23 Sep 82 pp 10-11

[Text] In Afghanistan a new malaise is striking the Soviet Red Army, which is already sorely tried. The Russian soldiers, discouraged by the brutality of their officers or sickened by the atrocities they are ordered to commit, are beginning to ask questions about their presence in Afghanistan. Hundreds of Soviet soldiers have inflicted themselves with mild wounds or have even committed crimes in order to return home. Some have deserted; others have turned coat and joined up with the guerrillas.

Military life is rarely pleasant, especially in a war zone. The danger, the trials and the discomfort can be tolerated only because of the soldier's sense of duty and the personal relationships he has with his officers and comrades. According to Soviet deserters, these improvement factors do not exist in the Red Army.

All We Have to Endure!

One of these deserters, the soldier Ivan Aleksandrovich Petrov spoke to journalists in a guerrilla camp near Nahrin, in the province of Baghlan, in the northeast of Afghanistan. "Do you know what it is to be a Soviet soldier?" Petrov asked the reporters. "What the life of a soldier is? All kinds of cares, trials, worry, agitation. All we have to endure."

The story of soldier Petrov is not unusual. Drafted shortly after his 18th birthday, he was sent to a training camp near Moscow. He complained of the harsh treatment he and his companions received. The officer to whom he complained took out his service revolver and shot him in the chest. In most armies in the world, this officer would be brought before a court martial, but Soviet soldiers do not enjoy rights typical of other armies. Petrov was tried for insubordination and condemned to extra service at the end of his two-year hitch. And he was sent to Afghanistan.

"I'll give you an idea of the life we lead," explained Petrov. "Breakfast consists of a hunk of black bread with a little butter and a cup of tea."

Then we work until about one o'clock and it's lunchtime. Lunch is gruel, a kind of oatmeal... When lunch is over we go back to work until 6 o'clock. Then we have dinner, nothing but bread and tea, that's all. Lights out at 10 o'clock and we sleep until 6 am."

Nothing is anticipated to alleviate the boredom of garrison life, even in the war zone with the tension created by the occupation of a hostile country and the anti-guerrilla struggle. All this can sap the morale of a unit. Kuli Yakovl'yev, another deserter from the Red Army, confided to the French newspaper LIBERATION last December that Soviet officers had a right to vodka and certain distractions, but that soldiers were reduced to making a crude alcohol out of shoe polish and motor oil or to selling their arms and ammunition to buy haschisch from the Afghans.

Yakovl'yev, a tractor mechanic from Ashkabad, talked of the brutal treatment inflicted on him by his officers and even by his comrades. In June 1981, he deserted after being beaten by the latter.

"The Russian officer never gives a particular order to an individual," Petrov declared, corroborating the statements of Yakovl'yev. "But he gathers all the soldiers in a room and announces to them that he will come back in five minutes and that the room had better be clean. After he leaves, the soldiers come to blows to decide who will have to clean up the room."

Non-Russian ethnic groups, particularly Armenians like Petrov and Moslems like Yakovl'yev, are the scapegoats of the European Russians, and they are often forced to do the minor tasks.

Scruples

All Russian deserters do not leave because of bad treatment. Some, like soldier Valeriy Yopovich Kozlov, desert for reasons of conscience. The unit of soldier Yopovich, the 345th anti-aircraft battalion, was attacking a city near Mahmoud Raki. I saw a 9 or 10-year-old kid crying and asking soldiers not to touch his mother or sister. They opened fire and in an instant all three were lying dead." Several minutes later, says Yopovich, "the soldiers brought a 70-year-old man to their officer. The officer interrogated him, then took out his pistol and shot the old man in the belly. Before sunset we were back in Bagram and on the airfield, with every man carrying some booty. These incidents made me run away. I will never be able to forget."

Sergeant Yuriy Grigor'evich Povarnitsyn, from Sverdlovsk, had his reasons for deserting and joining the guerrillas. "During combat there is practically no chance of being taken prisoner, but when calm is restored, there are more opportunities," he declared to reporters in a rebel camp at Zabol. He saw some of his men break into a house in Kaboul, "beat the men and rape the women," in hopes of getting themselves arrested and sent back to

the USSR, even under a prison sentence. Other men, following his orders, "sold all sorts of equipment to the Afghans, spare truck parts, gas, military equipment," all that to buy haschisch.

Last June 8, Sergeant Povernitsyn jumped off a bus near Charikar and wandered about until he was captured by the guerrillas. "I had to get out," said the sergeant to those who were questioning him. "It's a ridiculous war."

9955

CSO: 4619/1

ALGERIA

BITAT DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO, SAHARA PROJECT, OTHER ISSUES

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 10 Oct 82 p 6

[Text] Interview With Rabah Bitat, National Assembly speaker, by Mu'awiyah Hasan Yasin, 'Abd al-Rashid Andijani and Jamal Bashatabji: "Algeria Is Against Policy of Vacant Seats So It Sent Special Envoy to Fez Summit; I Held Position of Ben Bella's Vice President; Ben Bella Is Now Free and Bears Algerian Passport"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Rabah Bitat is considered one of the figures who contributed to achieving the Algerian Republic's independence. He waged the battles for independence side by side with his comrades Ben Bella and Boumedienne, who led the war of liberation until they crowned their struggle by achieving independence from France. He took part in Ben Bella's government, holding the position of vice president of the republic. He has been holding the position of the People's Assembly speaker and, in his constitutional capacity, held the position of president of the republic upon the death of the late President Boumedienne until the current president, Chadli Bendjedid, was elected. AL-MADINAH has taken the opportunity of his presence in the pilgrimage and conducted the following interview with him.

[Question] What is your excellency's evaluation of the relations between your country and the kingdom [of Saudi Arabia]?

[Answer] First, I am happy to be here in the kingdom. This is the first time I have performed the pilgrimage. What I can say concerning our relations with the kingdom is embodied in our deep appreciation for the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its major role in making the pilgrimage comfortable. A total of 32,000 pilgrims came from our country this year, since we are an Arab and Muslim country. The relations between the two countries are good and will be firmer in the future to serve the Arab nation's interest, especially since this nation is currently suffering from a foreign threat. In his speech to the pilgrims, His Majesty King Fahd has explained the situation under which our Arab nation lives in the best manner possible. We hope that God will unite us and that our nation will be the best nation in the world.

[Question] We know that your excellency held the position of president of the republic upon the death of President Boumedienne. Did you give up the position of People's Assembly speaker or do you still hold it?

Answer In accordance with the constitution, the People's Assembly speaker holds the position of president of the republic until a new president is named. I held the position for the 45-day period stipulated by the constitution. That period passed calmly because our slogan in Algeria is to put the country's interest above everything else. Now I am the People's Assembly speaker for a second term.

Question Most Arabs charge that Algeria is "negative" toward the Arab nation's movements and it has been noticed that it always expressed reservations about attending Arab summits?

Answer Perhaps our president did not attend the latest summit. However, we did attend it, represented in the person of our minister of foreign affairs as a special envoy of the president. The truth is that we are opposed to the "vacant seat" policy and we always attend the nation's meetings. We can be accused of having taken a "socialist" option. But we in Algeria have decided to manage a thousand villages containing all facilities in a socialist manner. In every village, we have built a mosque. We have actually built 1,000 mosques. Our people are constantly building mosques. God be thanked, our country has been, continues to be and will continue to be a Muslim country forever, God willing.

Question But it seems that Algeria has changed somewhat the "socialist" course characterizing Boumediene's era. Some information media have described this change as "opening up."

Answer Naturally. Algeria had lived under colonialism for a long time. Under the pressures of colonialism, it had nearly lost its Arab and Islamic identity. Thanks to God and to our struggle and our vigilant people, we fought those pressures and raised the heads of the Arabs and the Muslims high with our victory.

Question News reports have said that a meeting was held on the sidelines of the Fez summit between the Moroccan king and Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs. What is your excellency's view of improving the relations between the two countries?

Answer We have a policy that we have followed and that we continue to follow, a policy whereby Algeria proceeds on the basis of good-neighbor relations. This means that we want and try to have the best relations with all our neighbors. The problems existing in the African continent, especially the problems on the Algerian-Moroccan border, are marginal problems. We have no real problem with our Moroccan brothers. In our official position, we always stress good relations with Morocco, we wish the Moroccan people every success and we implore God that these minor differences in the Arab Maghreb and Arab East will be solved soon so that the Arabs can move closer to each other and be better able to defend the Arab nation's honor.

Question Regarding the good-neighbor relations, there is the POLISARIO problem, which has caused the collapse of what you call "good-neighbor" relations. Moreover, there is an Algerian-Tunisian agreement for periodic meetings. But this agreement has produced no noteworthy results.

[Answer] There is no lack of desire on the part of Algeria to meet with its neighbors. Rather, we on our part exert every effort possible to meet and consult with our neighbors because such meetings and consultations achieve the interest of all the parties.

Perhaps our policy is more ambitious than the others imagine. We entered the stage of heavy industrialization and many fought us in this regard, but they have recently realized that our policy has been successful. We are now pre-occupied with the agricultural sector, which we neglected for some time. We believe that our failure to attend some meetings with our neighbors is not premeditated and does not reflect a desire on our part to refrain from attending. Rather, we are trying to translate the relations into tangible cooperation.

[Question] Then perhaps Libyan-Algerian relations on the one hand and the Tunisian-Libyan relations on the other are the reason for the failure to convene these meetings. Isn't that so?

[Answer] There are always circumstantial or temporary difficulties in every area and at all times. The truth is that we are seeking to unify the Arab nation, whether in the east or in the Maghreb. We look forward to the disappearance of all difficulties and we beseech God to achieve these aspirations.

[Question] What is new in the Algerian mediation to put an end to the ongoing conflict between Iraq and Iran?

[Answer] As you know, we, with a welcome from the kingdom, offered this mediation and we are trying to find a solution to the crisis in the relations between the two countries (Iran and Iraq) and to put an end to this drain that harms the area. Our minister of foreign affairs recently visited Baghdad and Tehran and he is still trying to bring the views closer to each other. We are doing this without being affected by the loss of our former minister of foreign affairs and the diplomatic elite that was accompanying him.

[Question] Hasn't the "truth" behind the death of your former minister of foreign affairs become clear yet?

[Answer] We accuse no one. Whatever the truth, the fact of his death has been "bitter." We are trying to settle the disputes of peoples and to improve their relations.

[Question] Are you accusing...?

[Answer] There is nothing in my statements from which you can draw any conclusions.

[Question] What are your country's efforts to improve relations among the Arab peoples?

[Answer] Of course, this falls within the framework of the "good-neighbor relations." We are trying as hard as we can to have good relations with our

neighbors. Our relations with Morocco and Mauritania are now good. We were not the reason behind the severance of the relations with Morocco. However, we are defending a clear opinion insofar as the Sahara is concerned. The gist of this opinion is that we believe that the Western Sahara issue is a just issue that must be settled, exactly like the Palestinian issue (!!), so that the Saharan people will be able to determine their future freely. Algeria has no ambitions in this issue and has no designs on a single inch of the Sahara.

[Question] But it is said that the Sahara will be Algeria's outlet to the ocean?

[Answer] But Morocco's king says that he is prepared to give us an outlet to the ocean and sees no problem in our getting to the ocean.

[Question] We would like to ask about the real situation of former President Ahmed Ben Bella.

[Answer] It was recently decided to release him and he is now free, is given a monthly salary by the Algerian Government and bears an Algerian passport. As for his positions, he is free to adopt whatever positions he wants and has complete freedom to express whatever opinions he wishes. I know him well. I worked with him as the vice president of the republic and I know his positions.

[Question] Do you have any objection to his return to political life?

[Answer] If he is capable of engaging in political action, then he can do so. We have not prevented him from engaging in politics.

[Question] Your excellency was Ben Bella's vice president before he was overthrown. Did you part company over a political or an ideological difference?

[Answer] The differences existing between us and Ben Bella at the time were political differences. His view regarding the development of Algeria at the time disagreed with our creed, regardless of the options that were open to Algeria. Our country has proven repeatedly that its people are a Muslim people and that it is a Muslim land that honors Islam. Ben Bella's socialist option was not compatible with the Algerian people's Islamic spirit. This was the cause of disagreement between us and Ben Bella. I left the government in 1964 and departed from the country because he was going to arrest me. But God be thanked, I left for another country where I lived until 1966. Generally, we have no objection to anybody engaging in politics, be it Ben Bella or anybody else.

[Question] What do you think of the reports of the mass grave discovered in Algeria recently and said to be dating back to the days of the war of national liberation?

[Answer] We would not be exaggerating if we say that during the Algerian revolution colonialism killed 1.5 million Algerians, not just the 1 million said to have been killed. This is why we call our revolution the 1.5-million martyrs revolution. While rebuilding gradually, we were discovering the bodies of martyrs who had been massacred and buried immediately by the colonialists. Discoveries similar to the one you are talking about are numerous and remind us of our sensitivity to French colonialism.

[Question] Why does Algeria insist on retrieving the "archives" from France?

[Answer] We are still demanding these archives because we consider them the property of Algeria. We are trying through meetings to persuade France to return them to Algeria. But the French always cite the pretext of their laws and the 15-20 year period stipulated in these laws. However, we continue to demand these archives.

[Question] Isn't there a possibility that Algeria will make a concession, even if only a small one, in its position vis-a-vis the Sahara problem so that it can save the OAU from a total split?

[Answer] We express our regret for any split in any international organization, especially the OAU. Because we are Arabs and Muslims at the same time, we are concerned with what is happening in Africa and we follow up on it constantly. We hope that the organization will maintain its wisdom and its composure, despite its young age, so that it will find solutions to whatever problems and difficulties it has to face. These problems are the legacy of colonialism, which oppressed Africa for a long time. In Algeria, we try as hard as possible to preserve this organization and hope that it will continue to carry out the distinguished activity it has carried out in the past.

[Question] In your capacity as the speaker of the Algerian parliament, what is your opinion of the single-party experience?

[Answer] The People's National Assembly deputies are selected by the party after being nominated by the people. The people are the master and have the choice. Insofar as the "one-party" issue is concerned, there is a basic rule, namely, that the majority rules and the minority obeys. This is what we follow in the assembly. Opinions are expressed freely in our assembly and we often disagree in our viewpoints.

[Question] But you don't accept in the assembly any member who is not enrolled in the National Liberation Front

[Answer] The Front is called the front. This means essentially that there are several viewpoints within this front. I do not say that there are disagreements in the sense understood by the journalists. But it is inevitable that daily life will elicit disagreements. Even within the family and the home, man is faced with such things.

[Question] Your excellency has held several positions of responsibility, beginning with vice president of the republic and speaker of parliament. and ending with president of the republic. Have you thought of writing your memoirs so that people can read the facts of your country's political life in these various eras?

[Answer] With God's help, I have begun to write my memoirs and I continue to do so. I hope to complete writing these memoirs shortly, God willing.

8494

CSO: 4504/41

TEXT OF ALGERIAN-RWANDAN COMMUNIQUE

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7 Oct 82 p 12

[Article: "Joint Communique--Algeria and Rwanda Preoccupied by International Situation"]

[Text] A joint Algerian-Rwandan communique was made public yesterday

[6 October] at the end of the official, friendship visit which Maj Gen Habyarimana Juvenal, president of the Rwandan Republic, made to Algeria from 3 to 6 October 1982. Following is the complete text of this communique:

At the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid of the Democratic and Popular Algerian Republic, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party, Maj Gen Habyarimana Juvenal, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development, made an official, friendship visit to Algeria from 3 to 6 October 1982.

Upon his arrival in Algeria President Habyarimana Juvenal and the large delegation which accompanied him received a warm and fraternal welcome from President Chadli Bendjedid, who was accompanied on this occasion by members of the Political Bureau of the party as well as members of the cabinet and senior Algerian leaders.

During his visit President Habyarimana Juvenal visited the "Makam El-Chahid" cemetery where he laid a wreath of flowers. The president of the Rwandan Republic traveled to Oran, where he visited the petrochemical complex.

President Habyarimana Juvenal had private discussions with President Chadli Bendjedid which took place in a fraternal atmosphere of friendship and understanding. The two chiefs of state also held a plenary session with their staffs. Attending this session were: on the Algerian side, Central Committee members Abdelhak Brerhi, minister of instruction and scientific research; Abdelaziz Khellef, minister of commerce; Ben Abdelkader Azzout, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr Amimour and Messaoudi Zitouni, counselors at the office of the president; and Benghezzal, director of the African Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Rwandan side were Francois Ngaru Kiyin Twali, minister of foreign affairs; Enoch Ruhigira, director of the Office of Industrial Crops of Rwanda (coffee); Leonidas

Rusatira, chief of cabinet at the Ministry of Defense; Andre Ntagerura, minister of higher education and of scientific research; Simon Insonere, Rwandan ambassador to Algeria; and Dominique Unayangoba, second vice-governor of the Banque Nationale.

Numerous Contacts at All Levels

The two chiefs of state examined all appropriate means for deepening and strengthening cooperation between the two countries. They had an exchange of views on the existing situation, particularly in Africa and in the Middle East.

Concerning bilateral relations the two chiefs of state expressed their pleasure over the harmonious development of cooperation between the two countries, over the numerous contacts at all levels, and agreed on the need to establish this kind of cooperation on a solid and long term basis for the benefit of the fraternal Algerian and Rwandan peoples.

In this connection a delegation from the Democratic and Popular Algerian Republic will visit the Rwandan Republic before the end of 1983, in the framework of the meeting of the first session of the mixed committee, with a view to examining in detail the program of cooperation between the two countries.

Regarding relations between the National Revolutionary Movement for Development and the National Liberation Front, the two parties have decided to strengthen their ties of political cooperation, particularly through the exchange of visits by delegations and of information.

The two parties agreed that the strengthening of solidarity between developing countries is an indispensable element in strengthening cooperation between them, and to this end they reaffirmed their determination to work for the promotion of cooperation among countries of the Southern hemisphere on the basis of mutual understanding and interest. Attention was particularly paid by both parties to the prevalent situation in Africa and the Middle East.

Faith in African Unity

The two parties reaffirmed their faith in African unity, of which the OAU remains the designated instrument. They reiterated their commitment to work for the strengthening of the organization in order to make it into a dynamic instrument capable of achieving the sacred mission which its charter assigns to it, in particular the total liberation of Africa, the emancipation of the African peoples, the achievement of true inter-African cooperation, and the preservation of the continent from foreign interference.

In this connection the two parties are of the opinion that holding the 39th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers and the 19th conference of chiefs of state and government of the OAU as soon as possible, in accordance with the decision of the Summit Conference in Nairobi, is highly desirable for the future of the organization and therefore of the continent as a whole.

Regarding southern Africa the two parties reiterated their complete solidarity and their total support for the people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle against oppression and domination by the apartheid regime.

The two parties renewed their full support for SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people in their struggle for national liberation.

The two parties condemn the maneuvers now under way which encourage the intransigence of the racist regime of South Africa and which delay the unavoidable achievement of independence by Namibia. They reaffirm the view that only through the strict application of Resolution 435 of the Security Council of the United Nations can there be a just and rapid settlement of the Namibian question.

The two parties condemned the permanent acts of aggression and the destabilization efforts made by the racist regime of South Africa against neighboring countries, particularly the People's Republic of Angola. They renewed their fraternal support for the front line countries in their efforts to come to the aid of the peoples of Namibia and of South Africa and to safeguard their territorial integrity, their sovereignty, and their national independence.

Admission of the SDAR in the Concert of African Nations: An Important Step in the Re-establishment of Peace

The two parties declared their conviction that there could be neither peace, stability, nor security in southern Africa as long as Namibia does not achieve independence, as long as the apartheid system is not destroyed, and as long as the racist regime of South Africa continues to benefit from the support of imperialism.

Examining the situation in Northwest Africa, the two parties reaffirmed their concern over existing tension which results from the continuation of the occupation by an independent, neighboring state of part of the territory of the SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic].

The two parties reiterated their support and solidarity with the SDAR in the struggle which the Sahraoui people are waging for the maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of their country.

They stated that they were convinced that the admission of the SDAR to the concert of African nations constitutes an important step in the re-establishment of peace. For this reason they ask the SDAR and the Kingdom of Morocco to undertake negotiations immediately to put an end to the conflict in which they are involved.

Analyzing the situation which prevails in the Middle East, characterized in particular by Zionist aggression against Lebanon and by the attempted liquidation of the Palestinian people, the two parties vigorously condemned the barbarous policies carried on by the Zionist entity and against the countries of the region, with the active support of imperialism.

Concerning the situation in Chad and based on the Lagos Accord of August, 1979, as well as on the decisions taken by the 18th Conference of African Chiefs of State and the Government in Nairobi in June, 1981, the two parties reaffirmed their support for the establishment of true and lasting peace guaranteeing non-interference in the internal affairs of Chad and the sovereignty, national unity, stability, and territorial integrity of this country.

They renewed their support and their solidarity with the Palestinian people, who are fighting for their right to self-determination, for their return to their fatherland under the direction of the PLO, their only, authentic, and legitimate representative. They renewed their support for the Lebanese people, who are fighting for the maintenance of the sovereignty, the independence, and the territorial integrity of their country.

The two parties recall that a just and lasting settlement of the Middle Eastern question must be based on the satisfaction of the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, through the establishment of an independent state and the unconditional evacuation of all occupied Arab territories.

The two parties are convinced that the present existing situation in the Middle East, which is similar to the prevailing situation in southern Africa, constitutes a real threat to international peace and security.

It is with deep concern that the two parties examined the present international situation, characterized by the return of tension which is manifested in particular by recourse to pressure, to threats, to the use of force, and to the establishment and strengthening of military alliances.

Aware of the grave consequences of this situation, the two parties reaffirmed their deep attachment to the principles, ideals, and objectives of non-alignment which constitute the basic framework for the emancipation of peoples, the development of new international relationships on the basis of equality, cooperation, and the protection of peace and security in the world.

The two parties emphasized their satisfaction with the visit to Algeria of Major General Habyarimana Juvenal, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the Revolutionary National Movement for Development, and with the meetings which took place between the two chiefs of state. The visit and the meetings constitute an important stage in the development of cooperation between the two countries and in the strengthening of the friendship between the two peoples.

Major General Habyarimana, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the Revolutionary National Movement for Development, invited President Chadli Bendjedid of the Democratic and Popular Algerian Republic and secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party, to make a visit of friendship to Rwanda. This invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date of this visit will be decided at a later point.

INADEQUACIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPORTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1-2 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] In Mohammadia (Mascara province) the opening of the school year 1982-83 took place under good conditions, thanks to the holding of several meetings and working sessions devoted to examining and studying school life in each commune of the district [daira]. This district has made a number of improvements, particularly in the most distant areas where the increase in the student population has been handled on the spot, thanks to recent construction of schools.

In the Beni-Congrane region, which has few means of communications, school attendance is poor, many children are unable to benefit from the democratization of education. Today, thanks to the efforts of the elected members of the APC [People's Communal Assembly] and the dynamism of the educational and cultural services of the province, hundreds of farm children attend school.

In the two divisions [circonscriptions] of Mohammadia district the student population is estimated at 20,000, divided among elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Elementary schools have 15,500 pupils, 3,000 of whom are newly registered and in first grade.

The 500 teachers assigned to about 40 schools, teaching in 250 classrooms, are a considerable number for the beginning of the school year. In terms of construction, 89 classrooms out of 133 and 50 housing units out of 100 planned were built under the 1975-77 and 1978-79 programs.

For the 1981-82 program construction of 44 classrooms and 44 housing units are being completed. A first group of 34 classrooms and 28 housing units will be turned over to the elementary school system before the end of this year.

On the basis of these figures it is said that Mohammadia district is behind in the field of school construction, a gap to which may be added the galloping population pressure. In spite of that the schools situation remains satisfactory to Mohammadia, where 3,000 children of school age have found their places in the different schools of the district.

Regarding middle level schools which also have a shortage of classrooms --there are three CEM [Colleges of Intermediate Studies] for 3,600 students --the elementary educational system has placed about 30 classrooms at the disposition of the middle level schools in order to take care of the students who have passed their entrance examinations for the first year of middle level education.

For its part the secondary education system is saturated. The shortage is clearly substantial (a single senior high school for the whole district was only able to take in 45 percent of the students who had completed fourth year of middle school). To remedy this situation, the boarding section of the senior high school was closed to permit conversion of the dormitories into classrooms.

In terms of the construction of school canteens the district has made enormous sacrifices resulting in the construction of a modern, central canteen in Mohammadia, with four new dining halls provided with modern equipment. This new facility, which is nearly complete, may be put in service in the next few days.

Other programs of construction are under way in the rural area to improve the operation of the school canteens in various rural centers, such as Sahouria (400 children taking their meals), Ferme Blanche (200 children), Yallom (200 children), the Freres Benchemine center (200), Macta Menouar (200), and Macta Doua (600). Finally, in the communes of Bou-Hennif and El-Ghomri school canteens were recently inaugurated, with refectories capable of accommodating 600 children taking their meals.

Tamanrasset: Shortage of Science Teachers

The members of the coordination bureau of Tamanrasset province recently made a visit to the schools in the city which opened their doors last Sunday [26 September].

The local leaders visited the elementary schools and went to each class, in order to find out what the situation was. This made it possible for them to note that the 1982-83 school year was off to a very good start.

In comparison with the opening of the 1981-82 school year, there was a clear improvement, and the members of the coordination bureau expressed their complete satisfaction and wished the teachers and students a successful year, assuring them of their full support for the completion of their noble mission.

The local leaders also visited the "Ibn-Badis" CEM, a school which has had an annex constructed in the countryside in order to meet the demand of newly-registered students in the middle level cycle.

In the course of the discussion which the directors of the school had with the members of the coordination bureau, they raised two urgent problems: the shortage of mathematics teachers and appropriate equipment for the boarding section of the school. Compared to 150 boarding students who were taken care of last year, the number has risen to 250 students from Abalessa, Idless, etc.

Djelfa: Six Senior High Schools Functioning

There are about 64,000 students attending the schools in Djelfa district. In the elementary schools the new pupils will study in 814 classes divided among 216 schools, 173 of which are newly constructed. At the middle level cycle there are 21 CEM, one of which is newly constructed and five of which have annexes, taking care of 11,667 students. Finally, regarding the secondary cycle there will be 3,394 students, 1,300 of whom are newly registered.

With the establishment of the new senior high school at Djelfa the number of secondary educational centers will be increased to six, with two annexes.

An analysis of these figures brings out the exceptional character of the opening of the 1982-83 school year, marked this time by an increase of about one-third in the capacity of the elementary schools.

However, the strengthening of the schools system remains quite relative, in view of the enormous needs of this vast province on the high plateau, where nomadic life is still widely practiced.

Furthermore, and despite the improvement recorded in the educational sector, attendance at school by girls remains a worrisome problem. Girls constitute only seven percent of all students in the elementary system, because of certain parents who refuse to send their daughters to school. This constitutes a real obstacle to the democratization of education.

A major effort remains to be made in this connection, and this task belongs simultaneously to the elected representatives of the people, party members, and mass organizations.

5170

CSO: 4519/27

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MASCARA EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 5 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by special correspondent A Chenouf: "Agriculture in Mascara: Recovery Measures; Selim Saadi Assembles Cadres from the West"]

[Text] By traveling on Monday [4 October] to the province of Mascara, Selim Saadi, minister of agriculture and the agrarian revolution, undertook the second phase of his working program in the western part of the country. After the working sessions held in Algiers on how the restructuring of the CNRA [National Commission of the Agrarian Revolution] was developing, following the end of the first and second phases of the Agrarian Revolution and the establishment of sectors for agricultural development and promotion, the same themes were debated yesterday [4 October] at a meeting held in the capital of Mascara province. Local authorities from Mascara, Tiaret, and Saida provinces were represented at the meeting, in addition to agricultural leaders. The agenda was limited to the points scheduled for the working visit of the minister, amounting to a series of regional conferences. Today the same program will be repeated at Bel Abbes and will include representatives of the bordering provinces of Tlemcen and Oran.

In terms of the agrarian revolution only Saida province has completed first and second phase operations. Tiaret and Mascara provinces have "promised" to close out this phase of activity by the end of October. However, they have expressed some reservations about the disposition of certain parcels of land. In short, as the government representative indicated, the agricultural cooperatives which do not meet the conditions necessary to become viable should be turned over directly to the CNRA. The other cooperatives will be treated on an individual basis. Nevertheless, in the latter case, handling these cooperatives should emphasize an orientation toward young workers. In this sense the speech of the mayor of Tiaret explains the difficulty encountered in this session, due to the absence from work on the land of a substantial number of workers. In any case the supervisory officials are at fault in terms of two complementary activities, agricultural achievement and restructuring. The date fixed for completion of restructuring is January, 1983. Concerning the second point, the establishment of the agricultural development sector—a decentralized technical and administrative structure charged with providing all kinds of assistance, control activity, and follow-up, covering up to 31 units resulting from the restructuring process—there

is still a question of where the managing engineers will be located. Foreign experts charged with assisting Algerian officials must be integrated into the new structures.

In Tiaret province, considering the broad extent of the land devoted to agriculture and animal husbandry in the area, it was decided to create eight SDA [Agricultural Development Sectors] for the 212 production units there. In view of the size of the private sector, including 30,000 farmers, to whom should be added those coming out of the restructuring of the CNRA, the five delegations at the commune level have been maintained (the function of agricultural mediator). Two other delegations at the district [daira] level have been kept on in the same way, considering the small number of units (17) and the manner in which the self-managing sector is scattered about.

In Saida province the characteristics of the area were taken into account: it is more fertile in the northern part than in the south. Four SDA have been established in the north, including the self-managing sector, the sector under the agrarian revolution, and private farms. The same comments were made about the difficulty of where to locate the experts. It was thought that they should be no higher than the SDA's and the agricultural villages. Here also it will be a matter of ensuring that the necessary working conditions are met, in the absence of which follow-up activity by the government cadres will be done in the same way as in Tiaret province.

In the report presented in the course of this meeting it was learned that "all arrangements in terms of temporary housing have been made in the expectation that housing will be provided by the SPRA [expansion unknown]. In spite of that the managers, after visiting the places concerned, refused to go to the places to which they were assigned."

Small Details Lead to Greater Things

In Mascara province eight SDA's cover the three sectors. Once again the fundamental problem of housing was raised. Already the offices of the SDA's are rather cramped to be able to provide space for the essential services of this structural level.

"Housing the experts remains a question to be answered," stated the agricultural representative. It is true that Mascara province has had no expansion in its infrastructure and, consequently, no housing program. According to the leaders, the backlog remaining to be made up is very substantial in this area. And the questions concerning the housing of agricultural cadres reflect all the consequences of regional imbalance.

In addition to this difficulty there is also the problem of the specialized personnel who have not yet gone to their places of work. The same shortcomings have been noted in several provinces.

The last point on the agenda concerned the stimulation of agricultural activities. Salim Saadi set the tone: "Small details lead to greater things," an allusion to the secondary phenomena and to negative, even if only

occasional behavior in an environment where the land constitutes a position of privilege. Social protection and rural housing are the two principal considerations attached to the problem of production in real terms.

He made the following observation: the land is not being worked, production is inadequate, and imports continue to grow.

A return to stimulating the agricultural sector implies development activity which involves placing all the factors of production at the disposition of the respective units. Everyone must take into account the results achieved, the minister of agriculture said. He continued, saying that in case some shortcoming becomes apparent on the part of the managers, action is imperative. It should be taken by disciplinary committees which are in the course of being reactivated.

Thus, the enactment of internal regulations for the units of production is under way. From the organizational point of view the necessary follow-up will take place at the district level. Regarding a few digressions on manpower questions--the shortages of cement and in industry as a whole have protected agriculture and manpower--the minister of agriculture returned to the central point in his sector: "From now on we will only speak of actual unit production."

It should be noted that, Salim Saadi had inaugurated the office of the SDA in Mascara earlier in the morning, in addition to a center for raising hens to be distributed as a priority item among the farmers of the region and a training center for agricultural agents. Previously, he had visited a greenhouse, where he was told that this is the first attempt to introduce agriculture under plastic covers in this province. The mayor stated that even the private sector will be included in this activity, thus bringing about a greater intensification of this form of agriculture.

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MINISTER OF DEFENSE DISCUSSES OCTOBER WAR, AL-SADAT'S ASSASSINATION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3, 6 Oct 82

[Interview with Marshal 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Minister of Defense, by Salah Muntasir: "Just Politics -- A conversation with Marshal Abu Ghazalah;" date and place not specified]

[3 Oct 82 p 7 Part I]

[Text] Among the months, October retains its special fragrance, which is different from that of all the months of the year. Of all its days, the date of 6 October will remain fixed in Egyptian history, through two of the events which leave a most awesome memory, the anniversaries of the fighting in 1973 and the assassination in 1981.

In events whose dates coincide to the day, and almost to the hour, there rarely is a single hero. This time, however, the hero in both is the same; the date of his great victory is the date of his moving departure.

Contrary to the hopes that had been placed on it, the anniversary of the departure will remain a candle lit in the embrace of the memories of his triumph, and the date of his fabled victory will last as a pyramid within which the dramatic event of his departure is ensconced.

Which of the two shall we discuss? The day of the fighting or the day of the assassination?

After this rapid introduction, let me sit down with Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, one of the men who lived through both days, the day of the fighting and the day of the assassination.

It is true that his position on the two days differed, but his vision of them was very strong and clear, because he was a witness to both together. I chose to begin:

"Your excellency the field marshal, where were you on 6 October 1973?"

The marshal said, "That day I was an artillery commander in the second army, commanding 2,223 artillery pieces, and it was my honor that they were the first arms to engage the enemy, at the very moment our airplanes were crossing the canal and starting to engage with their targets. That day the coordination between the arrival of our planes at their targets and the outpouring of their

bombs and rockets onto them, and the discharge of the 2,223 cannons at the same moment, was superb. The planes crossed the canal over our heads at exactly 1404 hours in the language of military men, or 2:04 in the afternoon. At 1405 hours, that is, a minute later, the planes had reached their targets and our artillery opened fire, raining their shells down on targets at a distance of 1 to 27 kilometers."

The Mistake of the Gap Will Not Be Repeated

I said, "Most honestly, your excellency the marshal, if the October war took place again, what mistakes could we avoid succumbing to?"

The field marshal said, reflecting a sense of truth, honesty and responsibility with each word, "No doubt there were small errors that one cannot talk about now, because talking about them, even in spite of the years that have gone by, would reveal some of our tactics. However, there is the story of the gap, for instance. We could have avoided that from the first moment, were the time when it took place to return."

I asked, in fascination, "How so?"

The marshal said, "The course of events in any war develops in the light of the information its commanders receive. One of our greatest points of weakness in October 1973 lay in the speed of information."

I asked, "Does your excellency mean a shortage of information?"

Quickly, correcting my impression, he stated, "To the contrary. We had information. However, the importance of any item of information is that it arrive at the right time and the right place. Had the information that was gathered reached the command at the right time, many things would certainly have been different."

I asked, "What kept it from arriving at the right time?"

He said, "The fact that we did not have modern reconnaissance equipment that would have let us achieve this. If we had had in October what we have now, as far as that equipment goes, it would not have been in the Israelis' ability to create the gap or anything else."

I stated, "Let me ask you to be cleaner. The deficiency, therefore, lay in the communications gear we possessed."

He went on to state, "The communications gear existed, but the way it was used at that time depended on groups of individuals who were located at points specific distances into the theater of combat. These groups gather information and send it to you. This method is without a doubt totally different from one in which for example you have a plane without a pilot working with a system that can give you all the information it gathers directly by picture through video. In the former system you get the information but in the latter system there is a tremendous difference because your potential for learning information precisely

and clearly is very great. Then your acquisition and knowledge of the information as a commander in charge in the operations room occurs the moment it is learned — in fact I might almost say the same moment it occurs. This speed in the acquisition of information, and the clarity of information, will, without any argument, enable you to make the right decision quickly and consequently develop your movement and that of your forces on the basis of what you receive. However, if the arrival of this information is delayed, even by an hour, this means that you have lost that space of an hour in the calculation of time, and that is a period of time which could, as happened in the case of the gap, have a great effect on the timing and precision of the decision, and its attempt to catch up to developments."

I said, "Without infringing the secrecy of tactics which you referred to, were there other mistakes which could be discussed?"

The marshal said, "I do not know if this was a mistake or not, but what actually happened is that we based our calculations in preparing for this war on estimates of the enemy's performance which were very much in excess of its actual performance."

I asked, "Do you mean that we assigned the enemy a greater size than it possessed? Perhaps that was due to the 1967 complex, specifically?"

The marshal stated, "Perhaps so. However, it is certain that all our movement planning in the crossing operations, and our rates of advance in Sinai, were based on the consideration that the other party would move at very high rates. Had we made a correct evaluation of their movement, the degree of our superiority in Sinai would have been five or six times greater."

I said, "Your excellency the marshal, this leads me to ask you, frankly, was the fact that we stopped at a specific, limited line in Sinai and did not venture to go beyond it one of our mistakes?"

The marshal said, "Listen, in war we always judge what happens some stages after the results have been attained. In a correct evaluation, we must when making judgment on acts take the circumstances that existed into consideration. The circumstances that existed dictated that the command accept a limited line, but had anyone been able to read into the unknown, the decision would undoubtedly have been different."

The frank dialogue with the marshal whets one's appetite to open doors that had remained closed for years, during which time we hovered about them but did not open them.

I said, "President al-Sadat terminated the Soviet experts' mission in the armed forces in July 1972. The question which is gnawing at me now is, had the Soviet experts remained in the Egyptian army, would the October war have led to the results it did?"

Marshal Abu Ghazalah said, "Had this war occurred when the Soviet experts were in the Egyptian army, the first thing that would have been said was that it was these experts who had led the war, and they would have received credit for any

of the victories that occurred, while the Egyptian commanders alone would have borne blame for all the mistakes that occurred. However, I doubt that the war would have taken place at all if President al-Sadat had not terminated the Soviet mission, perhaps because their presence in the Egyptian forces obligated them to estimate that if any war broke out that could lead them to a clash with America, considering that the latter is the major power supporting Israel. That, of course, would greatly influence any decisions they made. Then to that I must add their doubts about our success in the crossing. That was not a guess — we heard it from them. I heard it myself from a Soviet general who worked with me, name of Nushal, and other experts of theirs; when we were dreaming about crossing in their presence, they warned us that if we thought about that sort of thing, the blue color of the canal water would turn red because of the proliferation of blood of Egyptians who would meet their end in this water. They told us, 'If you cross you will face a greater problem than you can solve, because the wall before you is very terrible and you need nuclear weapons to be able to go over it.'

I asked, "Does that mean that the preparations for the crossing plan were not started until the Soviet experts left?"

He said, "Plans were made in their presence, but they were not offensive in the comprehensive sense of involving all forces. Rather, they were plans which were set forth in their presence for an offensive involving limited raids that lay within the context of the war of attrition. With the Soviet experts, we carried out training projects in offensive activities but they were all limited. However, the comprehensive plan for a strategic offensive involving all the armed forces was set out only after the Soviets left. The people who set this plan out were all Egyptians."

I asked, as if I was talking to myself, "Today 9 years have elapsed since the October war. Do you believe that it has received its due?"

Thinking a little, he said, "It is very probable that the Israelis have given it its due from their point of view in terms of the studies, research and also the dozens of books they have written about it. However, from our point of view, my belief is that we have not given it what it deserves, because it truly was one of the noblest, most splendid and greatest achievements there could be."

I asked, "In spite of the mistake of the gap?"

He stated, "The October war consisted of a number of amazing battles. The fact that you lose a battle like that at the gap does not mean that you have lost the war. Not at all. Egypt, by all standards, won this war, and the October war, as is the objective of wars, changed the strategic and political situation in the whole region."

I asked, "What is the object of any war, in your opinion?"

The minister of defense said, "In general, the basis of any war is to impose one's will and carry out political or strategic change. All analysts know that the October war changed the strategic situation in the Middle East."

I asked, "Did we exploit this war properly in the political sense?"

He said, laughing, "You can answer that better than I can."

I asked, "And strategically?"

He said immediately, "Strategically, there is no argument that we exploited it well, because exploiting any war in the strategic sense means:

"One, developing the armed forces.

"Two, developing the notion of national security.

"Three, developing Egyptian military strategy.

"In the context of these three goals, I believe that the late president Anwar al-Sadat exploited it well on the higher strategy level."

I asked, "Your excellency the marshal, one of the results of the October war was that we started to join with Israel in receiving our major arms from a single source, America. I am not hiding from you the fact that in my political view many reasons and ideas make me believe that it is important that America stand alongside Egypt and Israel in a single trench. However, I would like to put myself temporarily in the position of the opposing point of view and ask you, how can we rely for our arms supply on the same source that is arming Israel?"

Marshal Abu Ghazalah said, "First, I must say that we are not the only ones in this situation. However, aside from that, the question could be, why is America content to arm both Egypt and Israel together? Because America has its own higher strategy which is compatible with this, regardless of the firm relationship that it has with Israel. What I would like to warn people of is the belief that Israel totally dominates America, as some people say. It is true that Israel has influence in America, but what one cannot dispute is the fact that America has its own separate strategy, and any political thinker can see that this American strategy, as far as the Middle East goes, takes the form of two big goals:

First, maintaining the flow of oil out of the region at reasonable prices.

Second, driving Soviet influence out of the region and attracting the greatest number of countries as friends. As for the question of colonialism, I doubt that that is an American objective. Their goal is to make you their close friend, and not a friend of the Soviets."

I asked, "Your excellency the marshal, doesn't this conflict with Arab strategy?"

The marshal said, "If you look at the map of the Arab countries, you can divide it into two big circles: the circle of the Arab East, which goes from the Arab Gulf to the Nile Valley, a region in which the oil is concentrated and whose interests seem to be shared, just as the dangers threatening it seem to be the same, and pressing - the greatest of these dangers of course being Israel and Iran - and the second circle, which we call the Maghreb and the threats surrounding it, which are not pressing. This circle goes from the Atlantic Ocean to the Nile Valley. Thus the Nile Valley, which is Egypt, is the common denominator to

the two circles, and that is what defines the importance of Egypt's status geographically and the responsibilities that arise from this status."

Resuming his description, the marshal stated, "If we look at the circle of the Arab East, the main oil producer, which has 60 percent of all the world's oil, we will find that a major basis for its strategy is the security of its relations with the West, since that is the client which buys its oil. Consequently, there is an assured interest in developing its relations with this West. It supplies it with the oil and in exchange for that gets from it the money and also the technology with which it can build the components of a new economy, through which it is preparing, starting now, for its future after the oil in its fields is depleted. It can only depend on the West for the importation of this technology in turn. If to that we add the fact that the Arab countries, by virtue of their belief in the divine messages and religions, are drawn closer to the West than the East, we will find that all of these reasons categorically rule out the existence of a contradiction or clash between the two strategies, the Arab and the American."

I asked, "However, your excellency the marshal, isn't it possible that this interpretation or analysis might reflect a sort of total capitulation to America?"

The marshal stated most enthusiastically, "This could be the case if relations proceeded in one direction, or in a class direction, that is, in the sense that the West was the only one who took, from the Arabs, and did not give anything to them, or that the West put itself in the position of master and the Arabs in the position of subordinates who had no say. This situation must be totally rejected, because the relations we aspire to must be based on equality. I benefit from you and you benefit me, you do not exploit me and I do not exploit you either. All I ask of you, America, as an Arab, is that you give me an opportunity to live and progress. As long as I do not throw myself into the embrace of your overpowering presence, you must help me - although that does not prevent me from having a friendship with the other party, in one way or another, as long as that friendship does not affect your interests."

I asked, "Don't you consider, your excellency the marshal, that such a role in actual performance would require a high degree of Arab skill?"

The marshal said, "Certainly, especially since the rules of the game between the two major powers are still as yet unknown to us in the Middle East, while in Europe the rules of the game are well known and clear. Because of that, the Atlantic Pact has managed to coexist with the Warsaw Pact to the point where if the number of missiles on one side increases you will find them agreeing on an increase in the number of missiles on the other side, because, as I have said, the rules of the game are clear, and the basis of it is to achieve coexistence between both and progress for each."

As the conversation had been going on in Marshal Abu Ghazalah's office in the Ministry of Defense, last 29 August - more than a month ago - in came Col Naji, the director of his office, and proceeded politely to give notice that I had gone beyond the time the interview was to have taken and that there were other visitors in the waiting room whose time had come.

Out of his sensitivity, Marshal Abu Ghazalah kept me from being embarrassed and indicated to Col Naji that the guests who had arrived would have to wait.

I had an urgent need to hear more. A tape recorder was operating between the marshal and me, and dozens of other questions were revolving about in my mind. Up to that moment I had not broached the day of the assassination, the day when Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah was sitting on Anwar al-Sadat's left, on 6 October 1981.

[6 October 82 p 7 Part II]

[Text] The conversation with Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah is still going on, and the frank talk between us concerning the reminiscences of October, and its distinctive aroma, are opening many doors that had been closed.

The conversation shifts from the day of battle to the day of the assassination, to the day Egypt lost the most precious of men, the date of 6 October a year ago. On that day, Abu Ghazalah was sitting to the left of the late president Anwar al-Sadat on the famous podium.

I asked, "Your excellency the minister, if I asked you, in the manner of a director of dramatic movies, about your last scene on the podium, what would your recollections be?"

The marshal, without giving me the feeling that he was suffering the least effort in recalling the event, stated "The last scene I can remember was after the attack was over, the attack by grenades and gunfire. At those moments, the direction of the attack, who was behind it, or the size or scope of the operation that was going on were not known to us. Therefore I can remember that all my thinking concentrated with automatic speed on attempting to grasp the many mysteries that had suddenly risen up, especially in view of the strange speed at which the incident had taken place, turning the stage of the podium from well arranged rows of chairs to scattered, fragmented remnants. Therefore I can well remember that after I had stood up I did not think of any wounds that I had suffered -- rather, all my thoughts were on how to take control of the armed forces instantly, as quickly as possible."

I said, "I am sorry to interrupt you and bring you back to the film on the conversation that took place between you and Anwar al-Sadat during the parade; let me ask you about the last sentence spoken between you and al-Sadat before the assassination conspiracy took place."

He stated, now exerting his mind to remember the conversation, "During the fly-over of the aircraft, all our attention was focussed on that and therefore what I remember is that the last conversation that took place with him was some moments before the incident and involved his ideas about the date of 25 April. It was his idea to hold a very big celebration on the occasion of the restoration of Sinsi on that day, in accordance with the peace treaty. I can remember that on that day he asked me to prepare a list of names of everyone we had to reward on that occasion for him."

I said, "Strange. There were still about 7 months before 25 April came around -- why should he be making this talk at that time about celebrations that were to take place after a fairly long period?"

The marshal said, "The thing that stood out was that he was indeed at the peak of happiness. One of the reasons for this happiness and his pleasure with the military parade, if you remember, you will find that this parade took place in the framework of a study in which we had been careful to avoid going to excess while at the same time parading the new types of arms and our advanced training level in the Western equipment that had been assimilated into the Egyptian forces a very few weeks before the parade, such as the M-60 tanks and the Chinook aircraft. What many people do not know is that the last group of tanks we received arrived just 3 weeks before the parade, and the process of getting them to take part in the parade and the provision of crews required to drive them, should be considered an exceptional act to which military people all over the world can give a fair share of appreciation."

[I asked] "Is driving tanks that different from driving a car, for example?"

The marshal said, "People who do not know imagine that driving a tank, as you say, is like driving a car. However, the situation is totally different in terms of operation, movement and technology. Suffice it for me to tell you that driving a tank requires a large number of training hours, especially since we had been shifting from the use of Eastern tanks to advanced Western ones, and the difference between the two is great. Therefore even the Americans themselves were amazed at the great effort by which we managed to outfit every tank crew and planes that arrived. One of the reasons for al-Sadat's happiness that day was the fact that he saw new weapons that had arrived a few days before taking part in the parade in front of him, and being driven by Egyptian soldiers and officers."

The conversation moved on to the moment of the attack, which had started, as the marshal said, when the truck that was carrying the conspirators suffered what drivers call a "stall" which is a situation that can hit any vehicle suddenly if the person driving it shifts the motor to a gear too low for the power of the engine, or if it is suddenly struck by a blockage in the fuel line. "Therefore," the marshal said, "when the truck door opened and the officer who was on the driver's right got down from it, I assumed that he had got down to find a quick way to push the truck and get out of this embarrassing situation he was facing in front of the podium."

The tape of reminiscences was turning quickly, and I asked him to be so kind as to narrate to me, "in tiresome detail," all the events of the moments and seconds that passed, however trivial they might have been.

The marshal, recalling the memories of all the things he had witnessed, said, "When the officer got down from the truck, I remember now that he did not have anything on his head, that is, he had no helmet. Suddenly I found there was something in his hand, and he threw that. Perhaps at that moment I started to suspect that something out of the ordinary was happening. When I heard the sound of the explosion over our heads, it became certain to me that it was an assassination attempt. The uninterrupted shooting started then. The speed was really amazing. It was certain that there was a cry, but what I remember is that what drew my attention was someone saying 'the president, the president.' I didn't know who had been saying that, but what I do remember is that when I heard the word 'president' I found myself automatically throwing myself on top of him."

[I asked] "On top of whom?"

The marshal: "On top of the president."

[I asked] "What was he doing at that moment?"

The marshal: "The president himself, I can't tell you what he was doing, because before that I was the focal point of the field of fire. All I remember is that I threw myself on top of him, and after the attack stopped they came and pulled him out from under me, and I started to get up. As I said, before that I immediately directed my thoughts to how to take control of the armed forces from my position of responsibility. Some commanders appeared and I gave each of them an order to go back to his command center at once and keep me informed of all details. After that I got into the vehicle of Adm Muhammad 'Ali, commander of the navy; the car was behind the podium, and I asked him to have us go quickly to the general command, to the operations room. I was so distracted that I was then without a hat, since the hat had fallen off my head. When I got to the command building I asked Adm Muhammad 'Ali to go at once to Alexandria to take control of the navy."

I asked, "What happened after you got to the general command building?"

Talking rapidly, as if going at the same pace as the speed with which he had dealt with events at that time, the marshal said, "The first thing was I gave instructions to the air defense force and the air force to raise its preparedness level, for fear that the operation might have been bigger than a limited assassination or some foreign power might have been behind it. Therefore, one of the goals of my instructions was to secure the Egyptian borders to the east and west and in all directions and give orders to close off Egyptian air space and have the air force ready to engage any foreign airplane penetrating our skies."

I said, to draw his attention, as if trying to stimulate his memory: "However, as I recall, you were wounded, and it appears some bullets had hit the hat you were wearing."

The marshal said, "I was indeed hit, and the doctor came to my office here as I was issuing my numerous instructions to the various commands and receiving signals and reports by telephone and radio from them on their condition. In the course of all this, I removed the ceremonial uniform so that the doctor could examine my wounds, and I put on another uniform, but without suspending the communications I was carrying out. Perhaps the reason for that was my confidence that my wounds were not serious, and, thank God, they weren't. I was hit in the arm and the ear, and I still had a piece of shrapnel under my eye, and some other light pieces of shrapnel, but as for the hat, they brought it to me later, having identified it since my name was written inside it, and it appeared that a shot had passed through it directly over my head."

I asked, "When you reached the general command, did you know anything about al-Sadat's fate?"

The marshal said, "I believe that I learned about his death only later, because my whole attention was concentrated on the armed forces and also on securing

the vital positions in Cairo. Therefore, there were constant communications between me and the minister of the interior, so that I could make arrangements with him if he wanted the help of the military police."

Drawing away from the incident and getting close to the subject of the hero with him, I asked, "Your excellency the marshal, do you remember the first time you met Anwar al-Sadat?"

He said at once, "I remember it well, although that meeting took place 31 years ago, in 1951, when I was an officer with the rank of first lieutenant in the Third Regiment in al-'Arish. That year al-Nahhas Pasha (the prime minister of Egypt at that time) abrogated the 1936 treaty which he himself had signed with the British. As a result of that, it so happened that the British forces which were present in the very large camps they had on the canal at that time took over the Verdun Bridge and arrested an Egyptian army detachment that had been guarding this bridge. We reacted in anger not because that was the only bridge linking the positions of our presence in Sinai with Egypt, but rather because of the contemptible way in which the Egyptian bridge guard detachment had been arrested.

"We had been thinking about the need to move and attack the British, who had taken the bridge over, although we numbered no more than 14 lieutenants in the regiment I was in in al-'Arish. Our anger attracted the attention of the sector commanders and officers who were present in the area. During that time I met with Anwar al-Sadat for the first time; he was an officer in the signal regiment in the al-'Arish area at that time, and he had come, attracted by the national feeling and sentiment we had expressed through our desire to attack the British. His interest in our approach and our ideas was considerable."

I asked his excellency the marshal, "What in your opinion is the greatest achievement al-Sadat made?"

He said at once, "Without argument, the greatest achievement he made was the October war."

[I asked] "And what was the greatest achievement in this war?"

The marshal: "In my opinion, just launching an offense and assault on the canal and the Bar-Lev line was the greatest achievement in it, because the complex that existed in Egypt and the armed forces, if you will remember, and had been dominating all of us, army and people, after what had happened in 1967, was that there were no solutions, no hopes and no prospects, and that the 1967 setback had ruined us and put us in a state of collapse. The most important thing about the October war was the act of crossing beyond fear and crossing beyond terror. That in my opinion was a very great achievement, regardless of the significance of the other results of this war."

I asked, "Your excellency the marshal, in your statement you spoke about the objective of any war as being one of imposing will and carrying out a strategic or political change. Don't you consider that on the basis of this notion Israel has won the war in Lebanon?"

The marshal stated with animation, "To the contrary. Israel has not changed people's wills. It is true that it has inflicted grave losses on the resistance and has succeeded in expelling the Liberation Organization's military force from Lebanon, but it has not succeeded in stripping the Palestinian cause of its essence. What has happened is that the Palestinian cause is actually internationally stronger today than it was."

I said, "But I am concerned about the transformation of the struggle now that the Palestinians have been expelled from Lebanon. I say that I am concerned that the struggle will be transformed from a Palestinian-Israeli one to a Palestinian-Arab one."

The marshal asked, "How many people did they expel from Lebanon?"

I stated, "Nine or 10 thousand."

Marshal Abu Ghazalah said, "What do you think about the 1.5 million present inside Israel? So the issue is not one of 10,000 fighting men. Rather, the Palestinian resistance is a people's resistance, and peoples cannot be obliterated or killed, even by the force of arms. The entire French people were put under occupation in the days of the Nazis, and they had no weapons, men or troops, but they resisted inside France. The real people's resistance arose among all the individual members of the people. However, on the subject of 9,000 or 10,000 fighting men representing the organization, in my opinion they do not represent the resistance of the whole Palestinian people."

I asked, "Aren't you concerned about a future clash between the Palestinians and the Arabs?"

He said, "Why don't you state that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon gave the Arab nation an electric shock, an intimation of danger? This danger is giving the whole Arab nation a call to alertness which no one can argue about. This call is that there must be a united Arab strategy for the sale of the security of the Arab nation and that people must start thinking about it. I agree with you that the Arab world today is fragmented. This fragmentation is nothing new in the Arab world, although today it is manifesting itself clearly. Nonetheless, I believe that people have all started feeling and believing that a danger exists and that makes it inevitable that people get closer to one another, even if the situation demands that the act of drawing closer takes the form of countries in a single geographic location joining together, as has been the case with the cooperation which has occurred among the Gulf countries."

I said, "Let me draw attention to the fact that this conversation is taking place on 29 August, before the Fez summit meeting. If you look closely into the coming Arab summit meeting, what do you imagine will result from it as far as Arab national security interests are concerned?"

In a loud voice, Marshal Abu Ghazalah said, "If the Arab nation does not think in Arab terms, it will lose. If the Arab nation does not believe that it has no hope except in Egypt and the strength of Egypt, there will be no solution."

"If it does not believe that a weak Egypt cannot cooperate with the Arab nation but that it takes a strong Egypt to help the Arab nation, there will be no hope."

I asked, "Might the peace agreement between us and Israel be an obstacle on the road to these objectives?"

Abu Ghazalah said, "Not at all. One part of the peace agreement speaks of the existence of peace between us and Israel. However, another part speaks about autonomy for the Palestinians. There is no argument that having a strong Egypt sitting down at the negotiating table, supporting itself through a balance between itself and others, is very different from its lacking this support that it can lean on. Come let us imagine together what it would have been like had the Arab nation, at the time of Camp David, stood alongside Egypt. I can assure you that the terms would have been different."

It was almost 1600 hours in the afternoon. I replaced the tape with a new one, in spite of my feeling that I had stayed a long time and had overstayed my appointment by more than an hour. I was vacillating between going on and stopping, and, as I was setting the cassette tape in the recorder, I said, with a gesture that indicated that I had reached the end of the conversation, "Your excellency the marshal, talking about the tape brings me back to the tape of your recollections about the incident on the podium. It has been said that they were aiming at al-Sadat only. Is this the reason why you were saved?"

The marshal said, "Would a person who aimed only at al-Sadat have thrown a hand grenade at him? Moreover, it was not a single grenade but four. Each of the four people taking part in the operation had a grenade and he threw it. Had all these grenades exploded, as it had been arranged for them to, the whole platform would certainly have been blown up."

The marshal said, continuing, "The first grenade was thrown by Khalid al-Islambuli, and he had a strong body and muscles. Therefore he threw the grenade with such strength that it went very high in the air, exploded while in the air, and did not have any effect on anyone because when its fragments dropped from the high elevation where it had exploded and reached the people sitting on the podium, it had lost its lethal effect. Fortunately Khalid's strength prevented his grenade from exploding in the podium.

"As opposed to Khalid al-Islambuli, who had a powerful build, Husayn 'Ayil, Husayn's build was frail, and when he threw his grenade it fell in front of the podium, because he was weak, and it crashed against the podium wall. This wall shielded the people who were behind it from the grenade's force. The other two grenades did not explode. One of the two was one that hit Lt Gen 'Abd-Rabb-al-Nabi, the chief of staff, in the face. He had eight stitches done on his face and their marks can still be seen." (There was a grenade mentioned in the circumstances of the verdict the military court issued which people found on the chair the marshal had been sitting on, but fortunately the fuse to that grenade had only been pulled half out, because the person who threw it had been so pressed that he could not pull out the whole fuse.)

The marshal said, "The purpose of these grenades was to take the lives of the people on the podium. Nonetheless, the people who died died and those who lived lived. Who was it who chose who would die and who would live? Our lord alone willed it. However, if it had been up to them, I can assure you that with the four grenades and the Karl Gustav machine guns that they had, with a 20-round

clip in each gun, they were confident that they could blow up and kill everyone on the podium. However, a will was greater than theirs, greater than their surprise attack and greater than anyone's will."

I became aware of the effort that the lengthy conversation had caused him. He had not smoked a single cigarette and had not drunk a drop of water or cup of tea or coffee. We had not lost a single moment on a single word of politesse, since I had come into his office in the Defense Ministry headquarters. Rather, from the first moment, I had tried to use all the time to hear what he had to say as a witness who had been in positions on 6 October 1973 and 6 October 1981 which, while different, on each occasion were close to the most important event of the two days, the day of the fighting and the day Egypt lost one of its greatest men.

11887

CSO: 4504/21

VARIOUS FARM ABUSES OUTLINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 713, 13 Sep 82 pp 18-21

[Article by Sana' al-Misri: "Who Is Responsible for the Drying up of Sugar Cane in Qina and Rice in Al-Gharbiyah, and the Saturation of the lands in al-Minya?"]

[Text] The director of the Irrigation Department, or the keeper of the Egyptian "water treasury," Eng Wajih 'Abbas, told AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, 3 weeks ago, future record, that there was no fear of a shortage of the water required for rice farming and that the receipt of water by farmers was being regulated for the first time this season:

However, there have been recurrent complaints by peasants over the drying up of sugar cane crops in Qina and rice crops in al-Gharbiyah and Kafr al-Shaykh; meanwhile the groundwater level has been rising in the Samalut lands in al-Minya.

It was necessary that we witness the facts in their actual conditions, so that we could learn whether to believe the farmers or the director of the Irrigation Department.

While officials in the Ministry of Irrigation say that irrigation water is no longer a "free commodity" that we can use without calculation, and that the peasants are consuming water excessively and squandering it, the peasants, on the other hand, say "Our crops are dying and cannot wait for bureaucratic discussions and office correspondence among ministries, departments and authorities."

Ministry of Agriculture Officials place the responsibility on the Ministry of Irrigation, saying "The deputy ministers of irrigation had undertaken, according to the crop composition map, to provide the necessary water to farm 1.3 million feddans of rice in the six rice governorates -- al-Sharqiyah, al-Daqahliyah, al-Gharbiyah, Kafr al-Shaykh, al-Buhayrah and al-Fayyum."

The problem remains, and one loses track where the responsibility belongs; is the director of the Irrigation Department stingy or profligate, is it the peasants who are squandering the water, or are all parties responsible for the neglect, misuse, struggles over areas of jurisdiction and the casting of responsibility on others over the loss of our national crops?

The Land Is Drying Out!

In the Governorate of al-Buhayrah, in the village of Sibirbay:

Here, where most of the land is owned by the Religious Endowment and Agrarian Reform Authorities, Hawd al-'Umdah, Kamisat Damshit and the al-'Ajami Drainage Channel, drought prevails in some lands and is turning them into blocks of stone, the cotton is dying, the rice is drying out, and the corn is wilting!

The peasants continue to live here in camps, constantly, residing on the land in the hope of obtaining water day or night!

They rent irrigation equipment but cannot find any water to pump up.

Some of them have resorted to irrigating with sewer water and the result has been that the cotton bolls have burst open and the ears of rice have turned yellow. Nonetheless, they are continuing to irrigate with this impure water, on the pretext that "it is better to be one-eyed than blind!"

The farmer Ahmad Mustafa al-Sa'dani, in the village of Sibirbay says, "I am supposed to irrigate from the Qahafah One Canal, which is located on the road to Kafr al-Shaykh. However, the canal is now almost filled in, because it has become inhabited from one end of the road to the other and has been turned into a sanitary drainage ditch for the new inhabitants, especially for the debris from the al-'Awarah plant. We have presented a number of complaints to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has said that that is the responsibility of the Irrigation Ministry. We complained to the Ministry of Irrigation and the governorate, but they have not budged!

"The Ministry of Agriculture has asked us to continue to work, although there isn't a drop of water! The farmers, after reaching agreement with their brothers, managed to transport water from the al-Zaytun Canal to Sibirbay, and we excavated new channels with our own hands and have rented irrigation machinery. However, the water comes in under low pressure and on many occasions hardly comes in at all, because we are taking the farmers surplus in the al-Zaytun Canal."

He went on, "The drainage channels are also full of weeds. We try to clean them out as much as we can, but they drain out very

slowly, damaging the crops and turning the drainage ditches into nests for mice to proliferate in and invade the farm fields."

The farmer Ahmad al-Sa'dani went on, "while our land is suffering from drought, the water is overabundant in Mahallat Manuf, because the land slopes down. We are located in the north. There was a bridge which would let water trickle down to us in specific amounts, but the irrigation overseer has not put out his wood for 2 years and the water goes down to Mahallat Manuf while the people at the ends of the canals complain of a lethal drought."

Another farmer who was irrigating from the Hawd al-'Umdah Canal, according to the well known irrigation system of 4 days on and 4 days off, said "The on days pass and not a single drop of water in the channels reaches the land. I irrigated corn seven times a season, as required, but so far, with the season about to end, I have irrigated only three times. At the outset I got seeds from the society and fertilized the land, but I could not find any water to irrigate with and the mice ate the seeds. I repeated the process three times. Finally the last time, the water arrived, but I was compelled to rent an irrigation machine for about 5 pounds a day."

The Problem Here Is Drainage!

The other side of the problem is in the [Agrarian] Reform lands. That is a problem not of irrigation but of drainage! That is also the responsibility of the Irrigation [Ministry], since a farmer asserts that the failure to clean out drains is one of the most important reasons for the proliferation and increasing viciousness of the mice. He said, "The al-'Ajami upper drain adjacent to the Kafr al-Shaykh Road covered our land's natural drainage needs up to the past 2 years, when the drainage canal was filled in because refuse had been thrown into it and weeds had grown, blocking the water behind the draining ditch so that it seeped uncontrollably into the ground around it and inflicted extreme damage on the cotton, corn and clover crops. There is no irrigation problem in this region because we are irrigating from the al-Qadr al-'Ali Canal. There also is a balance between the distribution of the crops and the water level. The only damage we suffer is from the upper al-'Ajami Drainage Canal."

The Shortage of Water in Damshit

From the start of the village of Kanisat Damshit, situated on Sibirbay No 5, to the end of the canal, the land almost screams over a water shortage and it is being torn apart by drought. The people farming it form lines on both sides of the fields, watching the wasted effort with great pain and with anger boiling in their veins. They unanimously agree that their own

hunger can be borne, but the thirst of the land is something else, and can lead only to death!

From the village of Kanisat Damshit to the end of the canal there are about 10 water wheels, each of which services about 500 feddans. That is, the damage afflicts about 5,000 feddans, all unirrigated by the Nile floods, equally cultivated by cotton, rice and corn.

Meanwhile, the area facing situated along the Sahlah or al-Hisa Canals is supplied by water in excess of requirements. It is claimed by farmers that a big irrigation engineer owns 150 feddans at the end of al-Hisa Canal and therefore the canal is opened up to water to the end of the canal, so that it will be available at the end of the canal to cover the engineer's water requirements!

The farmer 'Abd-al-'Ahiz Muhammad 'Ashur said, "I supervise 30 feddans of cotton which require irrigation every 25 days; now about 45 days have passed and I have not been able to irrigate them. The same with the acreage of summer corn in the district area; that has not been watered for about 35 days, although it needs irrigation once every 8 days. This reduces the per feddan productivity and affects the maturation of the crops.

"The rice located along Sibirbay No 5 Canal actually dried out because three successive irrigation cycles went by during which it did not get a single drop.

"The Ministry of Irrigation comes at the end of the season and asks us to supply the crop at a rate of 1.5 tons per feddan; When the amount required is not available, even if it is short by only a kilogram, the farmer is taken away from home and goes to prison and a case is filed against him. Why aren't the officials in the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation imprisoned instead of the farmers? Aren't they the ones responsible for the cutoff of water?

"Every farmer whose production falls short of the stipulated supply is compelled to buy the difference on the black market at a personal loss in order to avoid the trouble of courts and trials. They tell us, 'Present the complaints to the Irrigation Ministry. A delegation of our people travels every day to Tanta and meets the official, who replies, 'Clean out your canals.' We clean them out and pay the costs of doing so from our own pockets. Or he says, 'Go off and we will open the water up behind you,' but the cycle goes by and no water comes! In addition, if the Irrigation [Ministry] sends a dredge, we are compelled to pay the dredge operator 5 pounds for each load, and anyone who refuses to pay gets his load broken up, as has happened with a number of farmers. We rent irrigation equipment but cannot find any water to pump up. The farmer ahead

of me managed to irrigate half of his area, which was farmed with cotton, but could not irrigate the other half because the water was cut off.

"We are living in the fields, waiting for the water to come at night, but it does not come. The lucky people are the ones who get a little trickle seeping down to them at a cost of about 30 pounds per feddan and a number of days' effort."

In the Governorate of Qina:

In the Regional Affairs [Department] of the Ministry of Agriculture, Eng Fathi al-Waziri, the director of agriculture of Qina, was following up on reactions in the form of complaints cabled to the Qina sector over irrigation and drainage this year, especially since the complaints have been directed at the minister of agriculture as [those who sent them] despaired over the lack of response from the Ministry of Irrigation.

Eng al-Waziri said, "In Qina we farm about 150,000 feddans. Our problem may be summarized in the fact that after the construction of the High Dam they carried out irrigation projects but not water, and the land has been getting saltier each year because the irrigation valves are not regulated either and the water seeps into the Hijazah Drainage Canal, which is full of water and weeks to the end. The problem of drainage and the increasing salt concentration in the land is a result of the rise in the level of groundwater, which is threatening the land in Qina, Sawhaj, Asyut, al-Minya and Bani Suwayf. Last month the irrigation problem came up again since Qina is irrigated by the al-Kilabiyah and Asfun Canals, which take water from below the Isna Barrages. Suddenly the water level dropped, the sesame [crop] dried up, and the sugar cane and corn were not irrigated. One must realize that sugar cane requires from 18 to 20 irrigations and each time it fails to get a watering each feddan falls short about a ton of sugar cane.

"We have sent many complaints to the Irrigation [Ministry], the local assembly and the People's Assembly. They have sent us investigating committees, but no practical measures have been taken so far. Therefore, we are seeking the minister's aid before the sugar cane totally dries out and four sugar mills get shut down. That will cause a great deficit in national sugar production!"

In West Idfu

Eng Rikabi Ibrahim Hasanayn, the Aswan director of agriculture, surprised the Ministry of Irrigation by complaining about drainage in West Idfu, where the tile drainage project was carried out but the construction was not sound because the per-feddan productivity in West Idfu dropped below what it was before the tile drainage and below the production in other areas such as al-Siba'iyah and al-Baysaliyah.

In a memorandum he presented to officials, Eng Rikabi said that it was necessary to achieve coordination around the Ministries of Irrigation, Land Reclamation and Irrigation on the new production projects consisting of:

1. The Wadi al-Sa'ayidah project in Idfu District, 1,500 feddans in area, next to the Idfu sugar mill, which lies right along the Nile. This has the objective of planting the area with sugar cane to meet the requirements of the mill, which is now operating at three quarters capacity. The project requires the agreement of the Ministry of Land Reclamation for presentation to the Ministry of Irrigation, provision of the necessary irrigation equipment and then presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture for execution.

The project was presented 2 years ago but no executive measures were taken on it because there was no coordination among the ministries.

2. The Wadi al-Kubaniyah project, 10,000 feddans in area, suitable for fruit and vegetables. This requires the same procedures as the preceding project.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Responsibility

In the Ministry of Agriculture, AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI put these cases before officials there so that they might explain or justify what had happened. Dr 'Uthman al-Khuli, consultant to the minister of agriculture for planning and followup affairs, said "Every year the Ministry of Agriculture sets forth an overall crop composition map. This contains the general outlines of the farming but not the precise details: the breakdown of crops is not compulsory except in the case of rice and cotton.

"The breakdown is worked out on the basis of coordination among the ministry, the Council of Ministers, the Production Authority and local government. The ministry then distributes the plan to the governorates, on the basis of the areas of specialization of each.

"There also is coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, since the Irrigation Ministry makes a commitment to Agriculture to provide appropriate volumes of water on the basis of the geographical breakdown of the crops.

For example, this year the deputy ministers have undertaken, to their counterparts in Agriculture, to provide water for rice farming on 1.3 million feddans in the six rice governorates -- al-Sharqiyah, al-Daqahliyah, al-Gharbiyah, Kafr al-Shaykh, al-Buhayrah and al-Fayyum.

However, the question is, how can the Ministry of Irrigation cover the requirements of all this acreage when the ends of the channels are always suffering from drought? Every village needs a dredge to carry out the cleaning-out operations.

There was an irrigation system in existence in the al-Gharbiyah area, specifically in the sixties the High Dam was constructed, as a result of which the area cultivated with rice increased from 300,000 feddans to more than 1.2 million. Has a corresponding modification been made in the irrigation systems? How can the old system absorb all this increase?

The Complaints are Submitted to the Governorates!

Ibrahim al-Waqqad, director of the minister's technical affairs office, says, "Irrigation activities were under the ministry, at the outset but today they are subordinate to the irrigation offices in the governorates.

"When the complaints reach us, they are submitted to the secretary general of the governorate, who submits them in turn to the specialized offices in the governorates in accordance with local government laws.

"We can intervene on some occasions by rapidly communicating with the agriculture official in the area so that he in turn will communicate with the irrigation official."

Ongoing Coordination!

After all the above views of peasants, regional affairs directors and Agriculture Ministry officials were presented to Ahmad Mahir, the deputy chairman of the Water Distribution Institute, he said:

"Ongoing coordination exists between the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, on the basis of which the water discharge from Aswan is planned. For example, if cotton farming starts on 1 March the ministry discharges water from 1 March to the end of March. As soon as the water is discharged from the reservoir, our responsibility ends, whether or not the farmer subsequently uses it!

"Other agricultural factors enter into the reasons why the water is not used, for instance when seeds are not given out to the farmer or he does not provide equipment for the land. The farmer in this case is the only cause for the loss of water! Even if the Agriculture [Ministry] makes a stipulation, he takes water that is not his right at that time, bringing the level down. If one goes farther down the valley, the irrigation [water] might not arrive for a day or two, but it is out of the question that it will not reach an entire sector, because the fact that it is there in Sawhaj means that it has

actually passed through Qina. Then the problems of the presence of weeds and silt in the canals does not inflict damage on the whole sector. We deal not with small areas or crops but rather with whole sectors. As far as the problem of the ends of canals goes, I admit that that problem exists, and will continue to exist, because it occurs as a result of the farmers' neglect and their lack of concern to clean out the channels and canals and the failure to adhere to the rules the ministry sets forth. For example, if the ministry decides to provide 100,000 feddans in the Kafr al-Shaykh sector with water for rice, we find that the land that is actually farmed with rice there comes to more than 150,000 feddans as a result of the high price of rice. This increase assuredly is an act of aggression against the downstream sectors' share of water, and a deficit occurs.

"At this point, we must exempt local government from responsibility for the lack of surveillance and the failure to carry out laws and strike out at people committing violations. Rice is a crop which raises the groundwater level, and if there are no field drainage ditches (which are the responsibility of the farmer alone) that will harm other crops. The Ministry of irrigation was recently compelled to supervise these field drainage ditches, in order to cope with neglect on the farmers part. We must not forget, either, the factor of change in society, which has caused 90 percent of the farmers to suspend night irrigation; as a result the water goes into the drainage ditches and damage occurs."

The Lost Responsibility

I asked Eng Ahmad Mahir, "It is clear that there is a lack of coordination among the ministries responsible for agriculture in Egypt. This explains why about 5,000 feddans are suffering from water shortages and cutoffs. It is also clear that every entity is trying to evade the responsibility and lay the blame on some other entity. What comments do you have?"

He said, "Responsibility for the lack of coordination lies basically with the Ministry of Land Reclamation, because it has set up a number of new projects, for example the Samalut project, which covers an area of 10,000 feddans, without seeking the advice of the Ministry of Irrigation. This project has subjected 50,000 feddans surrounding it to damage, and that was among the most highquality, fertile and prolific land, while the output in the new project is meager, as is normal with land that has been recently reclaimed!"

After a review of these incidents, and mutual recriminations among certain people in charge of agriculture and irrigation, we call upon the director of the Irrigation Department to carry out his responsibilities, as he promised in his statement to AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI 3 weeks ago, so that the parched land in Al-Gharbiyah may be irrigated and the sugar in Qina may not dry out!

RECENT DROP IN TOURIST ACTIVITY REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 713, 13 Sep 82 p 8

[Article: "A 3.6 Million Pound Drop in Tourist Revenue in July 1982"]

[Text] Ministry of Tourism statistics on the number of tourists coming to Egypt last July showed a drop of 5.6 percent in the number of tourists. The drop in the number of tourists coming from Arab countries, Organization of [Economic] Co-operation countries and socialist countries continued, with an 11 percent drop in the number of tourist nights. Tourist revenue during this period came to 18.3 million pounds, as compared with 21.9 million pounds in July 1981, that is, a ratio of 57.5 percent of the estimated tourist income anticipated in accordance with the estimates of the transfer program for the month, which came to 30 million pounds.

The number of tourists coming from Israel totalled 1,219, as compared with 1,191 in July 1981, or an increase of 2.4 percent, with a 34.4 percent drop in the number of tourist nights, which totalled 4,153.

As regards the group of Arab countries, a 1.3 percent drop was noted in the number of tourists; the number of people coming in this group totalled 87,174, as compared with 88,339. The same was the case with the rate for tourist nights, which dropped by 13 percent, totalling 437,000 in July 1982 as compared with 552,000 in July 1981.

The number of tourists coming from Libya dropped 11.2 percent, those from Lebanon 22.5 percent, and those from the Sudan 6 percent. The number of tourists coming from Iraq increased 85.5 percent and those from Kuwait by 77 percent.

The number of tourist nights in the case of Libyans dropped 43 percent and in the case of Kuwaitis by percent [sic].

As far as the group of [Economic] Cooperation Organization countries goes, there was a 2.4 percent drop in the number of tourists, who accounted for 46,941 tourist nights as compared with 48,117 tourist nights in July 1981. The tourist nights de-

clined by 3.5 percent. The general trend was a decline in the number of tourists coming from the United States of America (17.3 percent), from Greece (18.2 percent), from Turkey (14.4 percent), and from West Germany (13.2 percent). There was also a drop of 14.5 percent in the number of tourist nights in the case of Americans and 16.9 percent in the case of people coming from Canada.

The number of people coming from the group of socialist countries was 1,155 [sic] as compared with 12, 248 in July 1981.

That was a drop of 7.5 percent. The number of tourist nights totalled 4,093 as compared with 5,177 in July 1981, or a drop of 20.9 percent.

11887

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EGYPT

BRIEFS

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL STUDY--The reactions of agricultural and agricultural economics experts relative to the report which the American expert York and a number of his assistants had prepared on the strategy of agricultural development in Egypt up to 2000 continue. Dr Husni Hafiz 'Abd-al-Rahman, deputy minister in the National Investment Bank, presented a memorandum on this report to the president, requesting that the principle of seeking the assistance of foreign experts regarding Egypt's agricultural questions be stopped, that Egyptian experts be assigned that work, and that appropriate resources be put at their disposal. He stated that the American expert's report did not add anything new to this issue, when compared with the studies Egyptian experts had published in this field of which nothing had been published in official form yet, except for the demand that a position be created for a deputy prime minister for food and agriculture! Dr Husni Hafiz pointed out that the study the American expert had prepared should be considered largely similar to the one he himself had prepared in November 1981 on agricultural policies and the food question in Egypt, which was presented to the economic conference held last February, especially as far as the period of the study, most of the percentages and mathematical models, and the conclusions went. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 713, 13 Sep 82 p 8] 11887

CSO: 4504/546

ENVOY TO KUWAIT ALI SHAMS ARDAKANI ON IRAQ WAR, USSR TIES

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 8 Nov 82 p 12

[Interview with ALI SHAMS ARKANI by Karin Haugane Seim]

[Text] • Iran is for peace, but not for a peace that is forced upon us by those forced the war upon us.

- We do not accept the Russians' intervention in Afghanistan.
- Even if all the Arab states make peace with Israel, Iran will not do so.
- Woman must cover her body so that she does not entice others.
- Khomeini is in good shape; I met him a few days ago.

So says Iran's ambassador in Kuwait, Ali Shams Arkani, in an interview with ARBEIDERBLADET. Arkani has been close to Khomeini since he was a young student. He has a doctor's degree in energy economics from the United States, and worked with energy questions in Kuwait and the United States until he became ambassador in 1980. He led Iran's delegation at the UN General Assembly in 1980 and in the Security Council at the beginning of the war with Iraq. Arkani is one of Iran's foremost spokesmen abroad.

[Question] The former Iranian chargé d'affaires in Norway, Parviz Khazai, recently described the Iranian régime as a terrorist régime that persecutes members of the opposition. What is your comment on that?

[Answer] As far as I know, the former chargé d'affaires did not follow instructions and answer questions that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent him. As is well known, there has not been any radical change in the government. In any case not since Bani Sadr was removed as president. The cause of his complaints must have been something new in himself rather than anything new in the government's policy. If the government was a terrorist régime before he defected, then why did he defect?

[Question] He said that he stayed on the job to protect--to defend--members of the opposition.

[Answer] He said he sided with them. He did not say that he defended them. I think opposition is one thing, but one cannot defend terrorists (Mujahedin Khalq) that bomb and kill innocent persons. Political views and parties are a different thing from persons who place bombs in bazaars and public places as the Mujahedin Khalq did in Teheran because they did not get to participate in the government and because a million people demonstrated against them.

[Question] Will the régime in Iran survive? What will happen after Khomeini? He is over 80 years old, after all.

[Answer] He is the leader of the revolution, but he has no state position. If the régime does what it is supposed to do according to the constitution, there will certainly be election after election.

[Question] But Khomeini is important, is he not?

[Answer] Yes, as in all revolutions the leader is important, and we wish him a long life. He is in good shape. I met him a few days ago. But it is certain that nobody lives forever.

[Question] As you know, Mr Ambassador, the Western press insists that security under the law **does not** exist in Iran today--is that correct?

[Answer] The problem is that the Western press is often the victim of its own propaganda. I tell those who come up with such assertions: Go to Iran, talk with anybody you like wherever you like, and judge for yourself. There are counterrevolutionaries and conspirators in Iran, including persons with Islamic cover. When it comes to the legal system, the Islamic system is different from the Anglo-Saxon one. The Islamic system deals with criminal cases particularly speedily.

[Question] What do you mean by that?

[Answer] In the American system, which is often praised, the rich escape, while the poor are stuck. You remember how Nixon escaped? He was found guilty, but he complained of a bad leg and never once saw the prison gate. I myself have taught in American prisons, and I had the impression that most of the prisoners were black, while in the population as such the blacks constitute less than 20 percent.

[Question] What happens if a person commits a criminal act in Iran?

[Answer] Each decision has to be made by a court of law, but the court works very fast. According to Islamic law the parties are obligated to try to solve the conflict out of court, and the judges are expected to urge such a solution. But if a judge is asked to make a decision, he does so, and there is no appeal.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] That is the Islamic system. There is no such thing as a three-stage appeal, as in Western countries. The accused can bring a charge against the court, however, so that there is a guarantee.

[Question] You mean he can defend himself?

[Answer] Yes. He can accuse the judge, and if the judge has made an error, he incurs a severe punishment. About 50 of the judges appointed during the revolution have already been found guilty.

[Question] Do you think that Islamic and Eastern ways of thinking are essentially different from what is found in the West?

[Answer] Yes, that is an acknowledged fact. Since we are on the subject of Islamic law, let us take, e.g., Jesus Christ's saying: "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Islam says that if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, you shall strike him back on his right cheek. The situation today in practice is that people in the West, who say that they believe in Jesus Christ, strike out before they are struck. And when they strike, they strike at least 10 times. Look, for example, at what the Americans did to Vietnam. What kind of justification did they have for doing that? Oh, yes, there is a fundamental difference. Take, for example, Jesus's saying, "Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's." Islam does not believe in that. Muslims think that everything is in Islam.

[Question] It has been written in the international press that Iran has moved closer to the Soviet Union since the revolution. On the other hand, some insist that you are on the way back to the Western fold. Some even say that Israel is one of your closest allies in the war against Iraq. This last was mentioned, e.g., in MIDDLE-EAST MAGAZINE for October.

[Answer] If you can tell me who puts out that magazine I can give you the answer.

[Question] Then what it says is not true?

[Answer] The magazine is financed by the régimes in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The statement therefore is not only untrue, but is put forward to cover up the cooperation that those two régimes have with the United States and Israel.

[Question] Then it is also not correct that Israel is Iran's ally in the war?

[Answer] Menachim Begin himself recently said that what prevents peace in the Middle East is the Islamic republic. Even if all the Arab states make peace with Israel, Iran will not do so. Moreover, we will regard all Arab states that conclude such a peace as enemies of our people. Because of our Islamic outlook.

[Question] And you are not closer to the Soviet Union than before?

[Answer] We cannot say that we are closer to the Soviet Union than before. We desire peaceful relations with that country. We have thousands of kilometers of common boundary, but I will say that trade and other relations are chillier than they were under the Shah, because he could play on the superpowers. He tried to keep the Russians satisfied; we have no reason to do that. We have informed them that our relations are based on mutual respect and that we are not bound by others' interests in these relations. That is the reason that we have been firm in our resistance to the Russian intervention in Afghanistan and

do not accept their position there. We are not ready to take part in negotiations about the situation in Afghanistan, either. As you know, we did not take part in the negotiations in Geneva. We regard the Afghan government as unlawful because it is a stooge for the Soviet Union.

[Question] The Gulf war--why does Iran not accept the peace negotiations?

[Answer] We are for peace, but not for a peace that is forced upon us by those who forced the war upon us. We insist that Iraq must pay for its mistake and correcting its course. The country must accept the Algeria Treaty of 1975; it must recognize Iran's sovereignty and must acknowledge responsibility for the war. The war was a result of a conspiracy that the Saudi Arabians and Iraqis were directly involved in. Now the same conspirators want to conspire for peace. We are for peace, but we are not for peace based on conspiracy. Iran is for peace, but also for justice. We are not for peace for the sake of peace, but for peace for the sake of justice.

[Question] But Prime Minister Mousavi is said to have recently attacked the gulf states for their financial aid to Iraq and said that their fate would be the same in the end as Saddam Hussein's. What did he mean by that?

[Answer] We know that the gulf states have openly, directly, and some of them very willingly financed and supported Iraq. If it were not for regional considerations and the future of the area, we would have had a right under international law to declare war on them. But we think that this plot was staged by the Americans so that we would react against these states and the United States could then come into the area as guarantor for its security. We have chosen to respond on the battlefield with Iraq instead of attacking these states directly. We think that all of the aggressive conspirators and those who serve foreigners, all will have the same fate. I believe that is what our prime minister had in mind.

[Question] According to Mohammad Heikal in the book "The Return of the Ayatollah," former president Bani Sadr wants you as foreign minister. Were you his man--and if so how did you succeed in surviving him?

[Answer] For the last 20 years I have not belonged to the same group as Bani Sadr, although I knew him. When he got into a blind alley in parliament, he proposed the Imam Khomeini as prime minister and me as foreign minister. He was trying in that way to solve his own problems, but I would never have accepted the position regardless of what the situation was. Anyway, I was appointed ambassador directly by the Imam Khomeini a year before Bani Sadr became president.

[Question] Let us talk about the status of woman in Iran. Do you think that women should cover up?

[Answer] According to the Koran, the woman should cover her body in such a way that she attracts others [sic]. The Islamic tradition has always been that the woman shall conceal her body and her hair in public. I am no authority on theology, but as far as I know all branches of Islamic teaching have accepted that as the right interpretation of the Koran. It says something like: "Tell the

women that they shall wear loose-fitting clothing." Since there seems to be unanimity among Muslims on this point, it must have been based on continuation of an old tradition. My personal opinion is that human relations are based on more than sex. Islam's aim is to free women from being looked upon as sex objects and treat them with respect. The woman should be attractive in the home for her husband. That will create more secure families that will create better generations of children. Islam recommends that the woman make herself attractive in the home, but not put herself on public auction.

[Question] How did you become acquainted with Khomeini?

[Answer] I have known him since I was little. My father is an Islamic philosopher himself and a friend of the Imam Khomeini. They became estranged and still are, but I got into Khomeini's camp from the time I started at the university. I was convinced on 5 June 1963 when Teheran's masses came out in support of the Imam Khomeini when he was arrested. The Shah massacred several thousand of them. Seeing that people were ready to die for something this man spoke for gave me as a young student my conviction that what he stood for was of great value to the people. There were some at that time, too, who were spokesmen for communism, Maoism, Stalinism, etc., but we considered those ideas as alien to our people, as we do today.

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CSO: 3639/28

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN VARIOUS SECTORS

New Urea Reactor Installed

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Nov 82 p 2

[Text]

SHIRAZ, Nov. 7 (IRNA) — A 270 ton urea fertilizer reactor has been successfully installed on a 22 meter high platform as part of an expansion program for the Shiraz petrochemical plant.

The installation which was carried out solely by Iranian experts will produce 1,500 tons of urea, 750 tons of ammonium nitrate per day, some 10 times higher than the present production rate in the plant.

The 900 million dollar expansion program is now 65 percent complete and it is expected that

with the expansion program's completion the plant would reach full capacity in Dec. of 1983.

The Iranian technicians told the daily Ettela'at that there were only six companies in the world who could install the reactor but, they added, they went ahead with their plans to carry out the operation independently.

A French company had offered to install the plant at a cost of 250,000 dollars, but the Iranian technicians said that they had done the job with much less expense.

Increase in Ball Bearing Output

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Nov 82 p 2

[Text]

TABRIZ, (IRNA) — Over 1,233,000 ball bearings of various kinds have been produced and marketed by Tabriz Ball Bearing Manufacturing Company in East Azarbaijan Province, during the first half of the current Iranian year (started on March 21). This shows an increase of more than 60 percent in comparison with the same period last year.

The factory was constructed ten years ago by Swedish concerns with an initial investment of 300 million rials and an anticipated capacity for producing 5.5 million ball bearings.

The factory had its highest pro-

duction in 1977 which was 2.7 million ball bearings of various types.

The next year (1978) the factory's production registered a decline due to the revolution. However, in 1979 the factory resumed production under Iranian expertise and during the past year more than two million ball bearings were produced.

Over 80 percent of the raw materials and spare parts of the factory are being produced inside the country and the rest are imported from Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden.

Progress Acknowledged

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Nov 82 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Nov (Kayhan's Correspondent) -The new Iranian victory on the war front against the Ba'athist regime of Iraq and its insistence on continuing fighting till Saddam is overthrown has culminated in a sudden realization that the Iranian economy is not at the brink of disaster has always been reported by the western media since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

It was speculated here in certain quarters that Iran would face certain problems if the Saudi government really slashed its oil price to weaken the Islamic Republic's economy.

But U.N.I., an Indian news agency report published by a few Indian national dailies here certifies the Iranian claim that its economy is quite stable.

U.N.I. in a dispatch from Washington said many had expected that because of the internal disturbances and the war with Iraq, Iran's economy would soon turn into a shambles. "Quite the opposite has happened," it added.

Quoting the Wall Street Journal, the Indian news agency reported a Western diplomat as saying, "The bulk of the people in Iran are better off today than they used to be before the revolution."

The Indian news agency also said that "Iran's economy was, in fact, recovering. Austerity measures have worked and Iran has reduced its foreign debt from 15 billion dollars to two billion dollars," it added.

It further said that shops were reasonably well stocked, Tehran's streets were packed with people, traffic was as heavy as ever and there were no power breakdowns or shortages of heating fuel.

It also noted that Iran was restoring its trade links with the world and oil sales have surged forward. Iran's foreign exchange reserves which fell at one point to between one billion and two billion dollars were now put at 13 billion dollars.

Distribution Problems Discussed

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

The shortcomings in the distribution system still continue. Each consumer product has several systems of distribution and the necessary items go through various channels from the production line until they reach the consumer, which greatly increases the price. Many food products and

household items and necessary goods are sold daily to the consumer at varying prices and this puts a heavy burden on family budgets. Profiteers and hoarders stick their claws in the market transactions and take the maximum advantage of the undisciplined distribution system, making

incredible profits. The shortcomings of the distribution system has reached such proportions that a committee composed of several ministers was formed to find a solution for this state of affairs.

Improper distribution of consumer products for instance, food-stuffs, has created problems for the people. A part of the dilemma pertains to the general shortage of goods and the effects of war and the other problems are due to the lack of an efficient and organized distribution system. To check hoarding and high prices, the government started rationing several high consumption products. Even though the prices of these items are several times higher in the open market, due to its proper distribution it reaches everyone.

However, during the last two years, because of high prices and improper distribution of other high consumption items, many people proposed that these items, especially certain food products, should be included in the list of rationed products in order to check the rising prices. Except the rationing of few items, there is no organized distribution system for most consumer products and at times we notice that a particular item is sold through various channels. Besides the war and its aftermath, profiteers and hoarders try to cause disruption in the distribution system. Right now many of the consumer products that are unavailable through official channels are easily obtainable in the open market at several times the controlled price.

Very often it has been noticed that despite surplus availability of consumer products, there have been uneven shortages due to improper distribution. For example, the minister of commerce announced that cheese and butter are in plentiful supply and Tehran has a stock for three months. However, we see most of the people looking around unsuccessfully for small quantities of cheese and butter. The same is true of household appliances. If you plan to get household appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, a television or gas capsules

through official channels, you may have to wait for months, whereas, one can easily obtain these products in the black market. The discovery of capitalists and profiteers hoarding goods reveals that consumer products are well stocked, but there is no equal distribution and supervision. According to many consumers, there has been no firm and determined check on hoarders.

The various channels of the distribution system has enabled the opportunists and middlemen to procure goods and sell them in the market at much higher prices. The lack of control and supervision on some necessary consumer products has caused great difficulties for the low income group.

The prices of certain high consumption products such as cereals has risen considerably. For instance, the price of dried peas shot up from 10⁰ rials per kilo to 140 rials within one week. This product is now sold between 190 to 230 rials per kilo in the open market. According to the middlemen, the prices of cereals have doubled in the last two months. Prices of other cereals in cooperative stores are: lentils rials 200 per kilo, beans rials 300 per kilo.

In the open market, beans are sold between 300 to 400 rials per kilo. It should be noted that these increases in prices are due to the shortages of meat and other meat products, because most of the low income groups use cereals for their daily food.

The problems of the distribution system has caused disruption in the distribution of rationed products. For instance, it is very often noticed that the rationed products are unavailable in the authorized shops. Poultry is one of the products that is rationed. However, during the last two months housewives had to wait for hours in long food lines to buy poultry without success. This is due to the erratic distribution.

Procurement and Distribution of Poultry and Cereals

Only a small quantity of poultry is imported and the major requirement is procured locally. A large quantity of the frozen poultry is distributed in the provinces. How-

ever, some provinces are self sufficient in poultry and Tehran poultry production meets the city's demand. An official of the government trading corporation said regarding the procurement and distribution of imported poultry: "Every year the plan and-budget organization allocates a fixed amount of foreign exchange to us and we import poultry after the confirmation of the ministry of agriculture. The imported poultry is distributed to the consumer by the commercial services organization." He adds: "During the last six months, out of the 40 thousand tons of poultry purchased, 24 thousand tons have been received, and we did not encounter any problem in the import procedure. I think the distribution problems are due to the fluctuating local production."

Regarding the high cost of cereals, an official of the economic mobilization group said: "Cereals are an important food product and are consumed mostly by the low income groups. To lower the prices of cereals a substantial quantity of lentils has been imported. As for red beans, its import is banned because it carries a kind of virus that may infect the local production. Nevertheless, we hope that with the import of cereals, the prices will lower."

Reconstruction Crusade Goes Into Mining

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

To implement the 45th article of the constitution which calls for the nationalization of the nation's mines, the mining department of the Reconstruction Jihad was created in early 1980 with the nationalization of a few marble mines in Yazd. This step was so widely welcomed and received by the mine workers that Jihad gradually brought more mines under its direct control. In the summer of 1980, with the creation of a single article by the Islamic Revolutionary Council a depart-

ment for the utilization and protection of mines in order to nationalize the mines, was established.

The Reconstruction Jihad is responsible for exploration, mining, creation of mining industries, sales, distribution, and exports.

Mining Industries Section

The purpose of this department is to establish mining based industries. One of the projects that are underway is a 300 ton capacity chalk factory in Masjid Sulayman.

The construction of this plant began two months ago and will be ready for operation within six months.

Also under construction is an experimental chalk oven with a capacity of 50 tons. This oven is being built by the Reconstruction Jihad and now a five ton experimental oven will begin operation soon.

Additionally, a project for changing of limestone coke fuelled ovens of sugar factories into limestone mazut fuelled ovens is ongoing. The construction of a limestone oven costs over 100 million rials, and is fuelled with coke. These ovens do not operate for almost 9 months of the year, during which period they can be used for making construction materials. Therefore, the Reconstruction Jihad is preparing plans to switch over from coke fuelled limestone ovens to mazut fuelled limestone ovens. This plan has the following advantages:

1. Cheap and plentiful supply of mazut.
2. Saving of coke consumption which there is a shortage of and costs between rials 3,000-3,500 per ton.
3. With the switch over to mazut fuel, the oven can be used throughout the year so as to raise limestone production.

Also since more than ten thousand sand sifting screens are imported every year, to meet the

increasing demand of the construction industries, preliminary studies for the construction of these screens has been completed.

And in the Shiraz petrochemical plant, since our production of carbonate sodium is insufficient to meet national needs, plans are underway to make the country self sufficient.

Activities of Research and Exploration Unit

The mining department has carried out explorations regarding the following products.

1. Talc

Huge meserves have been discovered in Lorestan Province. Talc besides its medical use, is also used by the following industries: rubber, paper, ceramics and food industries.

2. Asbestos

Preliminary exploration has been carried out in the Kashmere region.

3. Natural Asphalt

Natural asphalt has been found in the Kalkouliab and Boyer Ahmad regions. Research is being done for its possible use in the medical field, battery manufacturing, road and building construction.

4. Graphite

Significant reserves of graphite have been discovered in the Lorestan region and further studies of the region are continuing.

MODIFIED WEAPONS FOUND IN PLO CACHES

Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew No 25, 30 Sep 82 pp 40-41

[Article by Natan Ro'ie: "The Terrorists Produced Weapons Systems in Their Own Facilities"]

[Text] A fantastic arsenal of weapons and ammunition used by terrorists was discovered by the IDF during the Galilee Peace War. In addition to weapons imported from all around the world, a particularly disturbing fact was revealed--the terrorists had facilities for producing their own weapons. Some facilities were used for repairing and improving weapons, but the terrorists had reached the level of modifying weapons for new purposes, integrating parts of different weapons and actually developing new weapons systems, among them developments which for security reasons have not yet been made public.

During the terrorists long stay in Lebanon, they purchased and stockpiled a tremendous quantity of ammunition of all sorts. The caches were tremendous and sometimes had a strange appearance. In their warehouses mostly modern weaponry was found, but alongside there were also out-dated weapons, up to 76 years old.

Most of the ammunition captured was for guerrilla warfare, mainly small arms and ammunition of various kinds and an assortment of terrorist materials purchased from all over the world. The principal sources were Europe and East Asia.

The terrorists' facilities mentioned above were not just used to produce weapons. The terrorists also modified rockets and missiles during the war to accomplish specific goals. For example, they adapted 68 millimeter rockets, intended to be dropped from the air, for use in ground warfare.

In the weapons arsenal many hunting rifles were found. Some had apparently been expropriated from the local citizenry, known to have a rich supply of weapons in their homes. Ammunition for these weapons was also found, even including special ammunition for hunting elephants and rhinos. This was not a totally surprising discovery. An analysis of the battle wounds of IDF soldiers had shown that many were hit by bullets originally intended for use against rhinos. Among the wounded IDF soldiers were also found hits from dumb-dumbs, which are illegal according to the Geneva convention.

The terrorists also used some of the most sophisticated mines in the world.

It turns out that the majority of the weapons reached the terrorists from Iraq and Libya. The rest came by sea and air--via Syria--from several countries in the world. A defense spokesman explained that the terrorists had purchased, over the course of the last 7 years, weapons from every source at hand in a partisan fashion. In the opinion of that same spokesman, it is even possible that the terrorists bought surplus ammunition from the Americans under various "diplomatic covers."

According to the numbers and other identifying marks on the weapons, any good intelligence service could trace the weapons transfer from hand to hand around the world. In many cases, it turns out that the terrorists bought weapons that merchants were trying to get rid of for many years. Among the weapons merchants in the world, it was known that the terrorists would buy anything and everything. They paid good money for garbage. A chain of go-betweens, mostly Arab, headed by Adnan Hasugi, made a fortune in these deals. Sometimes it became absurd: among the ammunition found were trunks filled with wooden bullets, the result of a wild scheme on the part of a certain weapons producer.

Weapons were also purchased from countries whose industry is not up to par--Turkey, Bahrain and similar sources.

However, there was also an enormous quantity of superior weapons, mostly from East Germany and Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav weaponry was found to be extremely good, better than Russian equipment in some cases. The R.P.G., for example, is a beautiful piece of equipment, sophisticated and reliable, which the IDF was surprised to find.

Mainly, the ammunition found was, of course, from eastern Europe. The haul yielded important discoveries with regards to Soviet arms innovations. It was discovered that the Soviet Union and its satellites had started using H.M.X. explosives. This material has a high degree of sensitivity and an explosion several times more deadly than regular explosions, such as those used in artillery bombs, for example.

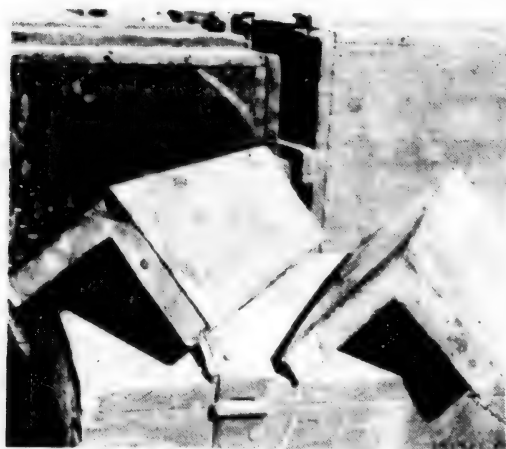
The terrorists purchased a great deal of ammunition from Yugoslavia and Hungary. They bought families of ammunition, for example in the anti-tank family from Hungary they had anti-tank bombs with motors and without motors, with 10 centimeter fuses, and other varieties.

Some of the arms included:

From the Soviet Union:	mortar bombs (cluster bombs), 50 millimeter (1952), S.A. 9, 122 millimeter
Great Britain:	82 millimeter cluster bombs
Yugoslavia:	82 millimeter, 120 millimeter and 128 millimeter cluster bombs
Italy:	anti-tank guns and grenades
Czechoslovakia:	120 millimeter cluster bombs
Hungary:	hand grenades and anti-tank weapons



+ 81 millimeter mortar bomb,
made in Bahrain



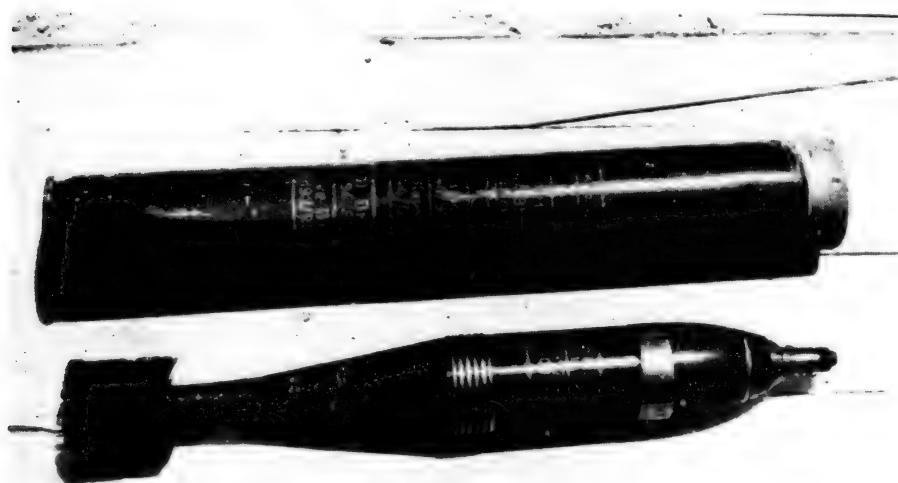
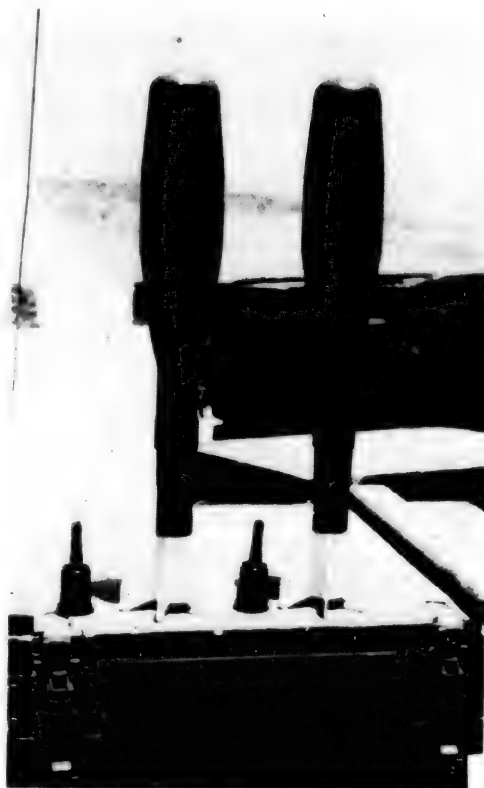
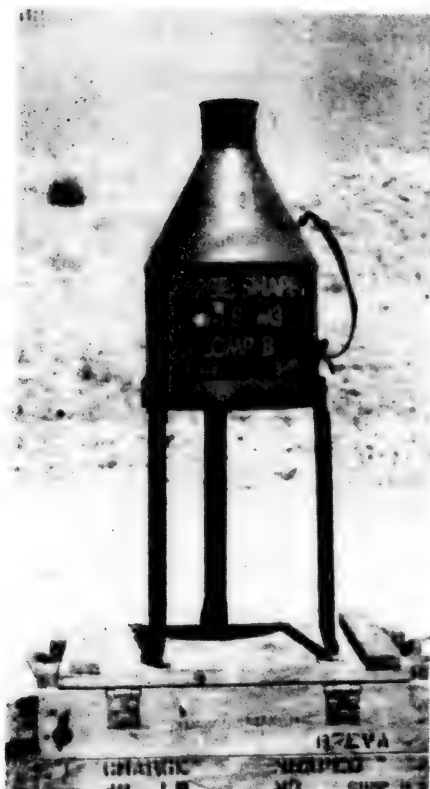
↑
Explosives made on an angle,
produced locally by the terrorists



↑
68 millimeter Belgian rocket,
usually dropped from the air but
adapted by the terrorists for use
in ground warfare

† American explosive unit from
the turn of the century

† Anti-tank bombs, made in
Yugoslavia



† Mortar bomb, 81 millimeter, made in Turkey

France:	120 millimeter cluster bombs, Milan rockets
North Korea:	107 millimeter cluster bombs, 122 millimeter rockets
Poland:	122 millimeter rockets, mines
China:	57 millimeter missiles
United States:	75 millimeter bombs, mines
Belgium:	105 millimeter bombs, mines, offensive and defensive grenades, Belgian Pierre B. cluster bombs

During the Galilee Peace campaign, the armored units tested rocket and mortar ammunition for use by the IDF during the war.

The 122 and 130 caliber rockets, which were captured new, were transferred directly to IDF cannon units and contributed to the effectiveness of these units.

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PROFILE GIVEN OF INQUIRY COMMISSION CHIEF KAHAN

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Oct 82 Weekend Supplement pp 8-9

[Article by Gideon Alon: "The Investigator"]

[Text] At first, the chief justice of the Supreme Court did not want the position. At the beginning of the year, Minister of Justice Moshe Nisim went to Judge Yitzhak Kahan's home and suggested that he replace Moshe Landau, who was about to retire, Kahan stalled. "At the moment I cannot answer you in the affirmative," he told Nisim. "If I had to answer today--the answer would be no." He explained his position by pointing out that within a year and a half, when he reaches 70, he would have to retire. "Perhaps it would be advisable to appoint a younger judge," he suggested to the minister. He added that the chief justice of the Supreme Court had to handle a great deal of administrative work which was not to his liking.

Nisim would not back down. He asked Kahan to weigh his proposal for a few weeks, until the issue came up for discussion before the judge's nominating committee. At the end of a few weeks, he returned and inquired again, but Kahan stood firm: He had not yet decided. Shortly before his appointment, he became reconciled to the idea, but already at his swearing-in ceremony, around 6 months ago, he announced that it was his intention to delegate some of the authority vested in him to his new replacement, Me'ir Shengor.

His brother is Rabbi Kalman Kahana, an active member of Agudat Israel and a Knesset member for several years. He says that Kahan's political views are unknown to him. "We never discuss politics or law," Kahana said this week. Kahan is an observant Jew; his judgments reflect a conservative world view and he has seldom angered the government. Kahan is not quick to interfere in the workings of the executive branch.

The Sabbath Decided the Future

His acquaintances describe him as a modest man, almost to a fault. His brother says he is introspective and closed by nature. He was born 69 years ago in Brody, Poland, to a Hasidic family. His father was a merchant and an active Agudat Israel supporter. "Yitzhak was father's favorite," says Rabbi Kahana.

Their father died before his son Yitzhak reached the age of Bar Mitzvah. Their mother was left to care for four children, two sons and two daughters. Kalman Kahana, who is 72 years old and a resident of the orthodox section of Qiriyat Matrasdorf in Jerusalem, left home before his brother. He went to Germany where he added the "a" to the end of his name, to distinguish it from Kohen. His mother and the three remaining children moved to Lvov. Yitzhak and his sisters immigrated to Israel; their mother was a victim of the Holocaust.

Yitzhak was a child blessed with many talents: From a young boy he showed a deep hunger for books. His brother says that even before he learned to read and write he could recite entire books by heart. The scholar who taught him religious studies was full of compliments for the young boy. Kahana: "The atmosphere at home was Israel-oriented. Our father was not a Zionist, but he knew Hebrew and we were introduced to the language at a young age, although German was the language most frequently spoken at home."

Yitzhak studied in a Jewish high school in Lvov. According to his brother, he tried to get into a post-secondary technological school in the city, but gave up his technical career because the entrance exams were scheduled on the Sabbath. Instead, he studied law at Lvov University. In 1935 he received his magistrate of law, administration and economics. In the same year he immigrated to Israel and settled in Haifa. He was 22 years old. To earn a living he worked odd jobs and in 5 years acquired a license to practice law. He worked under Shimon Agranat, who in his day was chief justice of the Supreme Court and Chairman of the investigative committee.

Ten years after opening his own office, Kahan was appointed judge in the magistrate's court in Haifa. That was in 1950 when he was 37 years old. Within 3 years he was a judge in the district of Haifa.

In those years his name was in the headlines following the trial of then mayor of Hedera, David Berman. Berman was accused of stealing funds which belonged to the Hedera local council and of submitting false receipts. It was one of the first trials involving corruption of a public official and therefore aroused much interest. Kahan's verdict took everyone by surprise: The judge found the mayor innocent due to lack of evidence but ordered one of the witnesses to be tried for perjury.

It was one of those verdicts of innocence that does not clear the name of the accused, but it said something about Kahan as a judge and about his strict adherence to the letter of the law. He wrote:

"I was not convinced that Berman had no knowledge of the forgeries. In this regard, all the doubts surrounding the accused were not dissipated and the fact remains that the accused signed numerous forged documents which, had he but glanced at them, he would have identified. But it is also clear that a verdict is not based on doubt, and the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt in a criminal case."

For 20 years Kahan served on the district court in Haifa. He developed the reputation of being thorough, probing and extremely knowledgeable. In addition to his court work, he taught administrative law at the University Institute in Haifa. His friends say that he distinguished himself among judges as "a man with a warm heart and deep humanistic feelings." They recall in this regard the decision Kahan passed in May 1956, wherein he found it was a son's obligation to help support his father, despite the fact that the man was a scoundrel who abused his wife.

Kahan wrote: "The written law relates to the general obligation of a son to support his parents when they are unable to do so. The question of whether this general obligation applies in a case where the father is not worthy of support, from a moral point of view, rests on the question of whether this obligation is part of the commandment to honor thy father and mother, or part of the Jewish law on charity. According to the law of Israel, a son must respect even an evil father. He is, however, not obligated to give charity to an evil man."

By relying on the law of Israel, Kahan reached the conclusion that the obligation to support one's father is one which rests on the commandment to honor thy father and mother, and it was therefore a son's duty to support even a scoundrel of a father.

He is balding, somewhat bent over, and he is not awe-inspiring. Court spokesmen say that they have never heard him raise his voice, and that he never rebukes a litigant. He speaks softly, always politely and pleasantly. But some lawyers who were asked about it this week said that one should not be fooled by his pleasant manner and polite approach: He can be very tough and demanding. From his bench he peers down at the litigant and asks particularly probing questions. Minister of Justice Moshe Nisim says: "He is a unique man, a man who wears his honesty and goodness on his face." Kahan is married and has three daughters. His son, may he rest in peace, Yehuda Eli'ezer, fell during the war of attrition.

Rebuke for a District Judge

During the 12 years that he served on the Supreme Court, Kahan managed to preserve his anonymity. He is not known to the general public as were his predecessors Haim Kohen, Shimon Agranat or even Moshe Landau--or his contemporary colleagues Shemgar, Barak and Bach. He is a more obscure figure who has not written important books like some of his colleagues, nor has he won coveted prizes as have others. He has not been involved in areas outside the walls of the court. When he was approached recently and asked to investigate the circumstances surrounding the massacre in the Beirut refugee camps, there were journalists who did not know how to spell his name correctly--adding an "a" where it did not belong. He avoids public appearances whenever possible. When he is required to attend official functions he appears very withdrawn. Last week when the chief justice of the Tel Aviv District Court, Benjamin Kohen, appeared on television and asked for the Minister of Justice's resignation because he had not ended the dispute among court workers--Kahan sent him a letter of criticism. "Your actions are excessive," he wrote, "and show a lack of self-restraint."

His acquaintances say that when he comes to pray every Saturday at the Rambam synagogue on Amtzia Street, not far from his home on Kovshei Katamon Street, he seldom speaks to the other worshippers. "He has a permanent place, next to the exit," explains one of the synagogue goers. "At the end of the service he removes his prayer shawl and disappears immediately." He often goes to synagogue on week days as well, for morning and evening services, and attends the Rabbi's lectures. But he does not usually open his mouth. "My brother is very quiet," says Rabbi Kalman Kahana. One of the worshippers in his synagogue says that on the Day of Atonement, the chief justice of the Supreme Court did not go to that synagogue. The synagogue goers assumed it was because he did not want to be bothered with questions about the investigation.

When the judge's nominating committee decided, in early 1970, to appoint him to the Supreme Court to replace Dr Moshe Zilberg, many said that Kahan was chosen to sit in the chair of the "religious judge," because for many years it has been a tradition that at least one of the judges would be an observant Jew. But several jurists have said this week that Yitzhak Kahan never limited himself to one field of expertise like Hebrew law. When he sits on the judge's bench, he is not in the habit of wearing a skull cap. Dr Shimon Shetrit of the Hebrew University feels, however, that Chief Justice Kahan falls into the category of judges with conservative (in most cases religious) views, like Agranat, Zilberg, Landau and Kister, as opposed to such liberal judges as Zussman, Vitkon, Bernzon and Haim Kohn.

Minister of Justice Moshe Nisim took exception to Shetrit's categorization. "Kahan does not belong to the school of conservative judges," the minister claims. "He is neither radical nor revolutionary, but I am by no means convinced that he is conservative."

Kahan, however, according to Shetrit, tends to abide by precedents and does not intervene in government matters. That which pertains to the court is more limited in his eyes than in the eyes of several other judges. Only in one area, says Shetrit, does Kahan stray from his conservatism and that is in his willingness to bend the Hebrew law, as it pertains, for example, to the obligation of the authorities to heed the individual citizen.

Were Shetrit to formulate a table of judges according to the degree of their conservatism, he would include Aharon Barak among the liberal judges, because of the views expressed in his judgments, his willingness to go against precedent and his broad view of the court's role. From this perspective, says Shetrit, it is interesting to note that Kahan deliberately chose Barak to sit with him on the investigating committee. Barak, of course, is more experienced than Kahan with regard to political and military legal affairs, having served as legal counsel to the government. When choosing Barak to be a member of the committee investigating the Beirut massacre, Kahan may have wanted to balance the committee with a member of a different school of legal thought, as a declaration to those who may have expected certain tendencies from him.

Recruiting Fine Young Yeshiva Students

A look at his judgments shows that Kahan is indeed very conservative. In a discussion which took place in the High Court of Justice, where it was decided in 1970 to deny the petition to order the Minister of Defense to come and explain why he did not instruct Yeshiva students to be recruited into the IDF, Judge Kahan said: "The explanation given his releasing Yeshiva students from military service was the need to protect institutions of religious study following the Holocaust. Perhaps the petitioner believes that this is not sufficient reason for putting off army duty, and there are undoubtedly many who concur, but this does not justify the issue of a decree based on a verdict of guilty which was reached with insufficient evidence."

Eleven years later, in December of last year, four reserve soldiers presented a petition to the High Court of Justice requesting that the Minister of Defense be barred from implementing those sections of the coalition agreement with Agudat Israel which relate to military exemptions for Yeshiva students. Judge Kahan, who chaired the session (together with Don Levine and Moshe Kohen, may he rest in peace) claimed that "No one can predict whether the recruitment of several thousand Yeshiva students--who see their recruitment into the army as a blow to their basic beliefs, according to which the study of the Torah supercedes their obligation to serve in the army--will add to the IDF's fighting force, or, God forbid, decimate that force. There is no assurance that this kind of recruitment, even if it increases the army force's numerically, will not carry with it negative long-term implications on internal and external security, Israel's relations with Dispora Jews and the like. He emphasized that "The question is basically a public problem and the solution should be left in the hands of political factions which have lobbied to influence the decision on this issue. The decision not to recruit Yeshiva students has existed since the birth of the state. Minister of Defense Ari'el Sharon did not change that. All subsequent ministers of defense have abided by that decision which is based on instructions contained in the defense service law, giving the minister very broad latitude in this area."

Law-makers point out that, as opposed to some of his colleagues, Judge Kahan would never "take on a baracuda." Since his appointment as chief justice on the Supreme Court, there has been a reduction in the justice department's interference in the executive branch. As opposed to decisions made by other judges, Kahan's judgments did not usually anger the government, they said. They recall Kahan's decision, when he sat on the High Court of Justice, to reject the petition filed by the foreign journalists' association in Israel against the limitations imposed by the IDF on newspaper coverage in Yomit.

The petitioners claimed that the restrictions were a breach of the right to know and the right of journalists to freely carry out their function, because access to the area was forbidden. In response to these claims, Kahan asked: "Is journalistic freedom a supreme principal which overrides all other considerations? There are studies indicating that the presence of journalists increases terrorist activity."

Three years ago, the case of the now defunct Arabic newspaper, AL-KATAB, was brought before the court. The publisher at the time took his struggle for permission to publish the paper to the High Court of Justice. Judges Landoi and Ben Porat decided unanimously to instruct the administration to grant the permission requested, but Kahan took the side of the administration and was opposed to granting permission. In his explanation he expressed unreserved faith in two written declarations presented by the District Commissioner, noting that by virtue of the fact that the District Commissioner is exempt from the obligation to substantiate evidence and the fact that his discretionary power is broad, he is practically not bound by the High Court of Justice. "As long as the District Commissioner's honesty is not in doubt, there is no reason to demand that he reveal the protected information on which he based his decision."

In 1973, Kahan was among those who sat on the High Court of Justice in the trial of Emma Berger, who wanted to purchase the Dora Schwartz boarding house in Zikhron Ya'akov, which was disagreeable to many of the country's residents. The Zikhron Ya'akov council decided to do away with the problem by expropriating the land for public use. The High Court of Justice ordered the council to suspend its plan to expropriate the land. Yitzhak Kahan agreed with Judge Bernzon's decision, but disagreed with some of his conclusions. The council's plans to set aside the land, he emphasized, were not formulated out of "malicious scheming," as implied by Judge Bernzon. According to Kahan, the plan was drawn before Mrs. Berger bought the boarding house. On the other hand, Kahan disagreed with Bernzon's opinion that the people in Emma Berger's sect should be viewed as converts. Kahan defined them as "foreigners passing some of their time in Israel."

On the issue of the archaeological digs in the City of David, Kahan also supported Judge Landoi's decision to rescind Minister of Justice Zvulon Hammer's instructions to suspend the digs. But, he deemed it necessary to add that his decision was made after much deliberation and hesitation and with a heavy heart. He emphasized: "Consideration of part of the public's feelings, even if that part is a minority which does not represent the majority opinion, is not tantamount to capitulation. The analogy that comes to mind is the well-known saying that the matter of the digs is too important to be left in the hands of archaeologists alone." The original saying is, of course, that war is too serious a matter to be left in the hands of generals alone. The head of the committee investigating the Beirut massacre would be well advised to remember that.

Yitzhak Kahan is the sixth chief justice of the Supreme Court. "He loves law," says one of the court's other judges who recently stepped down. "He devotes long hours to his work, much more than several other judges. He examines every issue seriously, with great deliberation and erudition." He occupies the seat of five former outstanding judges: Moshe Zemora, Yitzhak Ulshan, Shimon Agranat, Yoel Zusman and Moshe Landoi. They, and like them judges Zilberg and Haim Kohen, were considered great luminaries of the court system--not just because of their vast experience and knowledge but also because of their courage.

9811

CSO: 4423/28

PALESTINIAN INTELLECTUALS CALL ON PLO TO RESIGN

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Haliliyya: "1,500 Palestinian Intellectuals From Southern Lebanon Signed a Manifesto Calling for the Collective Resignation of the PLO Leadership"]

[Text] Some 1,500 Palestinian intellectuals residing in southern Lebanon signed a document addressed to their Palestinian brothers in Lebanon and the Arab world and to the Israeli government, calling for the PLO leadership to accept the consequences of the recent war in Lebanon and submit a collective resignation from their positions.

The document finds the current Palestinian leadership fully responsible for everything that happened to the Palestinians over the last 35 years and for the refugee camps in Lebanon in particular.

The document states that the leaders did not further the Palestinian cause, neither politically nor militarily and that therefore their resignation is in order.

The initiators of the declaration, most of whom are residents of refugee camps in southern Lebanon, prefer to remain anonymous for the time being.

The leader of the group, who hosted a DAVAR reporter in his home in one of the refugee camps in southern Lebanon, also asked to remain anonymous and for purposes of this article will be called "M.N."

In a conversation which lasted over 2 hours and was recorded for personal reasons, the man unfolded before the DAVAR reporter the tale of the holocaust of the Palestinian people and accused the PLO leadership and the Arab world of being traitors and of being fully responsible for everything that has happened to the Palestinian people. The PLO leaders also hold the responsibility for the massacre of Palestinians in the camps of Sabra and Shatila, the man said, adding that: "How long should we let ourselves be dragged down by that leadership. The time has come for the Palestinians to take their fate in their own hands." He called for those Palestinians who remain in Lebanon to organize as a political body with the goal of living in peace and respect with Israel and the Lebanese people, until a solution is found for the Palestinian problem.

The man called for the IDF to take full responsibility for the security and well-being of the Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon, and he asked the IDF not to withdraw from the territory now under their control in Lebanon until appropriate assurances are provided that no harm will be done to the Palestinians. Similarly, he called for the IDF to speed up the investigation of hundreds of Palestinians arrested for questioning and to release the innocent among them.

9811

CSO: 4423/26

FATAH'S NIMR SALIH SPEAKS AT BA'LABAKK CEREMONY

NC222021 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Nov 82 p 10

[AL-SAFIR report: "A Festival in Ba'Labakk on the Anniversary of the Corrective Movement in Syria. Abu Salih: We Will Link Our Withdrawal With Israel's Withdrawal. Qansuh: Nobody Is Entitled to Scratch the National Movement"]

[Excerpt] Ba'Labakk--AL-SAFIR--Fatah Central Committee member Nimr Salih (Abu Salih) has stated that the Palestinian forces will not withdraw from Lebanon as long as the Israeli forces are present. He disclosed that the Palestinian leadership had agreed at a meeting it held in Tunis recently to reject U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan and dialogue with Jordan's King Husayn.

'Asim Qansuh, member of the regional command of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, called for the formation of a broad Lebanese front to include all the forces, parties and personalities that are keen on rescuing Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese national movement is continuing its struggle and that its history cannot be scratched by a pen, a statement or a decision. Nobody is entitled to issue a death certificate for it.

These statements were made at a festival that was held in Ba'Labakk yesterday on the 12th anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria. In addition to Abu Salih and Qansuh, Arab Socialist Union Central Committee member Fayyad Haydar spoke for the [Lebanese] national movement.

The ceremony began with the observance of a 1-minute silence for the souls of the martyrs, and then the Lebanese national anthem and the Ba'th anthem were played.

The first to speak was Abu Salih, who praised the Lebanese people "who are defending the honor of the Arab nation and of mankind throughout the world." He said: "Those who are aspiring to control Beirut in order to impose the U.S. will be deluding themselves. Their domination and contempt of our people will not last long. We are capable of deterring them and of protecting our people from whom we shall not part."

He continued by saying: "The United States wants Lebanon to be an arena for Israel, to be partitioned geographically and to be a prelude to the division of the Arab nation. Confrontation is the duty of all progressive Arab and world

peoples. The responsibility of confrontation begins in Beirut, passes through Damascus and ends in Moscow."

He went on to say "the U.S. demands are that the Syrian and Palestinian forces withdraw from Lebanon, that Syria approve of Camp David and that the Arab area be subjected to U.S. hegemony and influence. I will repeat what [Syrian President] Hafiz al'Asad has told me: 'Syria categorically rejects Reagan's plan.'"

Regarding the future of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Abu Salih said: "No Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon but a Palestinian reorganization. No. We will not withdraw, because such a withdrawal would be a disgrace in light of the presence of the Israeli forces and the [U.S.] Marines. Israel is deceiving all of us, and it is deceiving the Arab nation. Arab reaction is trying to eliminate the obstacles for Israel so that it may reach Damascus and isolate Moscow.

He added: "We will not withdraw from Lebanon, and we shall link this [withdrawal] with the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and indeed with the withdrawal of the U.S. forces."

Referring to the proposals to have King Husayn participate in the negotiations for a settlement and to what has been said about authorizing him to speak for the PLO, Abu Salih said: "The cause concerns every Palestinian and Arab and represents the Arab future and existence. It belongs to all of us, and nobody is permitted to depart from our principles and aims. Whoever departs is not one of us and cannot be otherwise."

He went on to say: "During a meeting in Tunis, the results of which have not been announced, we do not know why, the Palestinian revolution said: No to Reagan's plan and to a dialogue with King Husayn; no to Camp David and to ending the isolation of Egypt. We will accept nothing short of the right of self-determination that will guarantee sovereignty and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The cause does not belong to any specific leader, individual or regime."

He continued: "We look to the Soviet Union which is now in the process of a serious revision, and the relationship between Syria and the Soviets is now being promoted to an unprecedented level."

He added: "To those who come to al-Biqa' and to those who make statements about Palestinian withdrawal, we say: Save your statements. We call on the Palestinians in Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan to come to al-Biqa' to defend the Palestinian people."

On the relationship with the Lebanese Government, Abu Salih said: "Which Lebanon is it that we should agree with in Lebanon? The Lebanese authorities, may God help them. [Passage as published] What agreement can be reached with a man who is besieged and cannot do anything? We pity Lebanon and its authority. Our stay and nonwithdrawal will be to support Lebanon and its authority."

In concluding his speech, Abu Salih again spoke about the relationship with Jordan. He said: "The dispute between us and King Husayn is one about existence. Should King Husayn's regime step forward to speak in our name, that would mean war with that regime."

CSO: 4400/97

LEBANON

QULAYLAT INTERVIEWED ON HABIB MISSION

NC232053 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT
23 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The Press News Agency [as heard] correspondent in Paris has addressed two questions to Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [chairman of the Independent Nasirite Movement--Al-Murabitun] who is under medical treatment there.

The first question deals with the results the movement expects from Philip Habib's return to Lebanon. The second deals with what he himself expects from the plan on the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat answered as follows:

Question: What results do you expect from Habib's return to Lebanon?

Answer: The Lebanese nationalist who follows up Philip Habib's role and plans must condemn this jubilation and din over his return as a savior to end the Zionist occupation.

We fear the return to the area of the hostile U.S. political plan and not the return of Philip Habib, who returns to us now armed with extraordinary powers which the U.S. administration has bestowed on him to settle the questions outstanding on the Lebanese arena and secure the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy. In the view of our movement, the following are the reasons for this fear:

1. The aim of Philip Habib's return to Lebanon is not to tackle the question of the withdrawal or the evacuation of the enemy from Lebanon but to implement the U.S. plan on the entire Middle East by using the Zionist military occupation of areas in Lebanon as an approach or a justification for his role and for the implementation of the U.S. political and economic plan in the Middle East.
2. We see pointers which could be, concerning the plan of Habib's return and the evacuation of the Zionist enemy from Lebanon, a start of a plan similar to the start of the unilateral Camp David plan, which began in tent 101 in Sinai.

3. In the light of these facts, the position of our movement is firstly governed by the Lebanese national commitment and secondly by the national Arab commitment.

We and the Lebanese national and Islamic forces must not be lost in the labyrinths of giving a quick judgment on the aims of Habib's return as being merely to implement the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy.

Question: What do you expect from the plan raised regarding the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon?

Answer: On the basis of our Lebanese national and Arab principles, we in our movement decry those who, with respect to the context of the withdrawals plan which is submitted under the title of the withdrawal of the foreign forces, do not discriminate between the occupying Zionist enemy and his historical and cultural ambitions in the occupied Lebanese areas and between the Arab presence in Lebanon, which derives its legitimacy from the legitimacy of the presence of the Syrian Arab deterrent forces and the Palestinian revolution's military presence, which derives its legitimacy from the Cairo agreement.

CSO: 4400/97

LEBANON

SHAM'UN ON ROLE OF ARMY, AL-JUMAYYIL TOUR

NC200904 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0600 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Interview with former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un on "Question on the Air" program; date of interview not given--recorded]

[Text] [Sham'un] I am of the opinion that the army is ultimately responsible for preserving security and public safety. This is particularly true in the areas which have been the scene of numerous disturbances, such as the 'Alayh area and the al-Shuf area.

In the absence of the army, and until such time as the army discharges [words indistinct], there are forces of occupation. In all the countries of the world, it is incumbent upon the forces of occupation to preserve security and public safety. [Words indistinct] until the Lebanese Army takes its place. I have heard, and I believe, that phased withdrawals will take place. It is possible [words indistinct] to say this withdrawal will be for some 40 km--20 in the north and 20 toward the south. There are speculations [words indistinct] about how these withdrawals will occur until Mr Philip Habib gives us his final views on this subject. It is imperative that the army discharge its full tasks as soon as possible. Perhaps the army cannot do this throughout Lebanese territory, particularly since a part of Lebanese territory is still under foreign occupation. At any rate, the army must deploy in the liberated areas--it must discharge its full mission. The reason is that there can be no justification--for whatever reason--for the army just to stage a parade on 22 November. This parade will be something very wonderful and we will all not be upset to watch it. However, this is not enough. The army's task is not just to stage parades [words indistinct]. The army has tasks more serious than that. In other words, its task is to preserve national security and public safety.

Concerning the withdrawal of the armies, the first step should be the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanese territory in such a way that all Lebanese territory will be freed from the foreign presence. When we achieve this result, then judicial organs should proliferate throughout Lebanese territory and should perform (?their tasks) throughout the country. The gendarmerie and the internal security forces [words indistinct] throughout Lebanon. All the state's departments must be present throughout Lebanon so that we will be able to feel that Lebanon is once again an integrated unit--from al-Naqurah to Nahr al-Barid.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr President: There is much talk now about the fate of the Lebanese forces. What is your opinion about this subject?

[Answer] We said there exists a justification for the continued existence of the Lebanese force. This justification is the presence of armed alien elements on Lebanese territory. When this alien armed presence ends, then I believe that there will no longer be a justification for the existence of independent Lebanese forces other than the Lebanese forces, (?that is), the [words indistinct] forces of the state. The Lebanese forces will be merged with the regular Lebanese Army.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr President: President of the republic Shaykh Amin is now making visits to the Arab states--open-door policy visits. Do you believe that these visits will yield results?

[Answer] The visits which the president of the republic is making to the Arab countries are, to some extent, protocol visits. At the same time, these visits can be useful, because they strengthen the relations existing between Lebanon and the Arab countries.

Nobody can predict the future. However, since the war took place between Israel and the Palestinians and not between Israel and the Lebanese, we are now supposed to conclude a security agreement between our two countries. Such an agreement would first guarantee that there will be no Israeli overrunning of Lebanese territory, as has happened, and that Israel would respect Lebanon's full sovereignty. This is as far as Israel is concerned. However, as far as Lebanon is concerned, it is incumbent on the Lebanese Government to prevent the presence of any organizations, such as those that were present in the past, if their presence endangers Israel's safety and security.

[Question] As the conclusion of this interview, do you want to address the Lebanese and the forces present in the Lebanese mountain?

[Answer] On this occasion, I exhort the Lebanese to close their ranks, to reach an understanding among themselves and to end the incidents that are taking place in al-Shuf and in 'Alayh. By this way, understanding and, consequently, amity and cooperation will prevail among all the Lebanese to serve this homeland and for the sake of its prosperity.

CSO: 4400/97

HADDAD STATEMENT ON CURRENT MIDEAST ISSUES

NC211225 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Statement by "Free Lebanon" Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad--live from the studio]

[Text] Lebanese brothers: I have not spoken to you for some time. I believe the time has come now for me to speak to you about some matters. First of all, I will speak a combination of colloquial and classical Arabic. So don't be too angry if I speak in broken Arabic, because I hope all the Arab countries will be broken as well. I also ask those of you who can receive channel 12 to turn on their television sets. I promise you that television channel 12 will reach all of Lebanon very soon, God willing.

Put in your mind first and foremost that whatever we say and whatever language we talk, we are with the new regime. We are with President of the republic His Excellency Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The president comes from our ranks, the ranks of the Lebanese Front. We and the Lebanese Front are an indivisible entity. We were and we will remain as such.

Therefore, the assumption of Shaykh Amin to the presidency is a victory for the line which we have followed for 7 years. However, if we talk, we talk for the sake of strengthening this line and of consolidating the stand of the president, because we know that the president is being subjected to great pressure by the Arabs, the Americans and others. Therefore, if we talk, we know that he will be armed with our opinion, which is the opinion of the people. He will thus strengthen his position, and we will achieve together the aspirations of the Lebanese people and the aspirations of Lebanon, and we will save the homeland.

First of all, we will briefly discuss the death of Brezhnev. Although this topic is of no interest to us, it is nevertheless an international event which the whole world has discussed. How does this topic interest us? First, may God have mercy on his soul. Secondly, we hope that his successor--I don't know his name, Yri or something--will follow the same policy which Brezhnev pursued toward the Arab countries. What was this policy? Brezhnev laughed at the Arab countries. He gave them illusionary aid. He sold them weapons and I don't know what. However, it was illusionary aid with which they armed themselves. In time of need, they found that all this aid was an illusion.

Therefore, we hope that the new president will succeed in cheating the Arab states like Brezhnev cheated them. God willing, so long as the Arab states remain ignorant, this is a victory for us. God willing, they will remain ignorant.

Now I want to talk about local issues. As you know, there is an economic crisis. [3-minute break in transmission] All stealing of electricity must be stopped. This is because no matter how long you wait and no matter where you are, we cannot get a normal supply of electricity if the electricity meters are not working properly. The overdue electricity bills must also be paid.

However, regarding the military men whose salaries are frozen by the command, we have agreed with the electricity company that it will check the meters and record the monthly consumption rates, but that it will not collect money until the military men receive their salaries frozen in al-Yarzah [Lebanese army command near Beirut]. This is because just as the state wants from you, you also want from the state.

Now I want to talk a little about smoking hashish. In the past, the Lebanese used to boast that we plant hashish but we don't smoke it; we export it to others. Today, the situation has changed. We now plant hashish and we smoke it. You talk to parents about this subject and they say our sons do not do such a thing. We must not hide in the shadow of our finger. We must face facts with a positive and open spirit. We must realize that there is a big danger to the future of our sons. This responsibility lies on the shoulders of the fathers and mothers.

A drug addict is a finished person. He is half dead, half alive. He still goes and comes, but whether he exists or does not exist is the same thing. He has no future. I ask the rising youths to beware of this dangerous trend, which plays havoc with their future. I also ask the fathers and mothers to watch their sons and to use all their influence and power to make them avoid this pitfall, the pitfall of drugs. Because if they fall into this pit, no one will be able to extricate them. Therefore, we hope that everyone will realize his responsibility and act accordingly.

This was about domestic issues, and now we will move to foreign issues. We have not spoken even once about the Iraq-Iran war, although the whole world has spoken about it. Therefore, it is necessary to say few words on this subject. Some people say Khomeyni is right and some say Saddam Husayn is right. The unavoidable truth is that it was Saddam Husayn who provoked Iran and started the war with it. If there is any responsibility as to who started the war, this responsibility lies on the shoulders of Saddam Husayn.

At the beginning when he thought he was victorious and invaded Iran, no one could talk to him. He threatened that he would occupy Tehran, remove Khomeyni and install someone else. Now that Iran has recovered its breath and become a threat to Baghdad, Saddam Husayn is shouting for help from the Arab countries and the United Nations and is accusing Iran of aggression.

The Iraq-Iran war is a vivid example of the lack of consciousness and democracy, especially in the Arab countries. If the Iraqi people are advanced and civilized and their president has done to them what Saddam Husayn has done--involved them in this war from which he cannot extricate himself--it should not have been necessary for them to have waited for Khomeyni to say that Saddam Husayn must go. Khomeyni is right to demand the resignation of Saddam Husayn. However, this demand must come from the Iraqi people.

Saddam Husayn should have known that if he was not up to this battle, he should not have waged it. Therefore, from our viewpoint, all guilt falls on Saddam Husayn. We should not beat around the bush and make it a racial issue. There is a right and logic which must triumph.

While talking about Iraq and Iran, we must remind the Lebanese, especially our sons from the Shi'ite community, including the Amal Movement, that what happens in Iran concerns Iran. Khomeyni is for Iran, not for Lebanon. I previously said that here in Lebanon we live as Lebanese and that under no circumstances will we accept that a Lebanese from now on lives in Lebanon while his eyes are directed abroad. We want true Lebanese in Lebanon, dedicating all their efforts for the interest and well-being of Lebanon. The roads are open to he who does not like this. Let him leave us and go wherever he wants. He who supports Iran, let him go fight in Iran. He who supports Libya, let him go to al-Qadhdhafi. He who supports Algeria, let him go to Algeria.

We Lebanese have had enough ordeals and catastrophes. We do not want any more wars. We need loyalty. We want to build Lebanon on strong foundations--pure Lebanese foundations. Those who want to stay, they are welcome; those who don't, they can go wherever they want. This applies to all Lebanese, irrespective of their communities, religions, races and colors. We believe that Lebanon is for the Lebanese. The Lebanese must owe their allegiance to Lebanon.

We have seen what the multiplicity of allegiances has done to us--7 years of ruination and destruction, 7 years of catastrophes and dislocations, 7 years of killing and slaughtering. We do [?not] want to return to the past. We want to cooperate all together to rebuild Lebanon and rebuild the Lebanese human being.

Meanwhile, I remind the Palestinians residing in the camps in the south that for humanitarian reasons, we have opened our heart again to them. We will ensure their protection and we will facilitate the arrival of any aid to them, provided they don't betray our trust or involve us in problems. In other words, if there are still swindlers [guerrillas] hiding in the camps, we ask all the inhabitants of the camps, for the sake of their safety and for the sake of their future, to inform us about them and to expel them from the camps. Because if they carry out acts of sabotage, there will again be resentment toward the camps. We are doing all we can to protect them. You cannot imagine how much pressure we are enduring because of you. We are content because our human principles call for protecting everyone. But don't embarrass us. We don't want a terrorist to emerge from here or a swindler from there and make problems for us. One lays an ambush for a patrol, another plants a mine and so forth.

Finally the battle has ended; the military battle has ended. If anything, these actions make life difficult for you. Furthermore, I believe that neither you want, nor do we like, to make life difficult for you. What is past is past. They tried the military battle and failed. Therefore, a handgrenade, an RPG, a mine or anything else will not achieve anything any longer. However, they will cause you evil and difficulties. We hope you understand what I am saying is in your interest more than it is in our interest or in the interest of Israel. What I am saying is in your interest in the first place.

Consequently, the question of the hour is the question of the withdrawals, of the talks and of the speeches. The best thing is the speech Hafiz al-Asad made yesterday. Hafiz al-Asad has no ambitions in Lebanon. He is prepared to withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally when Israel withdraws. What a liar you are! For 7 years you have been killing Lebanese, destroying Lebanon and plundering Lebanon. How can you now say you have no ambitions in Lebanon? How can you say you are just dedicated to serving legitimacy and to serving the Lebanese legitimacy?

Before he left, and although he was your man 100 percent, around the end of his term [former President] Sarkis asked you to withdraw from Lebanon. Why didn't you withdraw? Why didn't you withdraw? Who do you have [in Lebanon], and what gives you the right to say that when Israel withdraws you will withdraw? Was it you who halted the civil war in Lebanon? Well then, but you were one group pitted against the other. Have you forgotten? When you first entered [Lebanon], you struck at the swindlers and the leftists. Then, dear Libya intervened and 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, the money, came [wu ija 'Abd al-Salam Jallud al-maqrud]. Then he began jumping from Beirut to Damascus and from Damascus to Beirut. Finally, when he paid you more money, you immediately turned your artillery and your tank cannons in another direction--you directed them at the sons of the eastern area, just because you received money from Libya. Have you forgotten? We have not forgotten! We have not forgotten!

Where have al-Hadath, al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the mountain and Zahlah gone? Oh Hafiz al-Asad, have you forgotten all these places? You say that you have resolved the Lebanese issue and that you harbor no ambitions in Lebanon. You had ambitions, but you were unable to achieve them, just like the fox which could not reach the grapes and said: By God, these are sour grapes-- I have seen the same in Aleppo. Then go to Aleppo and eat grapes, oh Hafiz al-Asad. This is enough. The Lebanese have suffered a great deal at your hands. They no longer believe your lies and hypocrisy. Therefore, do not say that you have no ambitions in Lebanon and that you are prepared to withdraw. We now tell you on behalf of all Lebanese: Withdraw and leave Israel for us. I guarantee to you that Israel will withdraw. I guarantee this withdrawal to you. No one will regret your withdrawal. On the contrary, they will say: Good riddance.

And then you tell me that you came for the sake of Lebanon's interest? You wanted to annex Lebanon, but we did not let you do this. We did not let you do it. It was not out of your generosity that you did not do it. We know what your plans were. Had it not been for the fact that this area, which we call free Lebanon, stood against you--you and nobody other than you--you would

not now be saying that you have no ambitions in Lebanon. By now, Lebanon would have been part of Syria. Isn't this true?

Why were you always bringing pressure to bear on Sarkis, and why did you want to get rid of Sa'd Haddad and his group? Why? Have you ever met with any Lebanese officials without making it a condition for them to hassle Sa'd Haddad and his group? Why? Because Sa'd Haddad and his group were lying in wait for you, thus foiling your scheme. God be praised that we have successfully done this. Furthermore, this success is a source of pride for us; history will not forget it. Therefore, do not say that you have no ambitions in Lebanon, and do not say: These are sour grapes. Admit the truth. Say that you have not been able to achieve your ambitions in Lebanon.

Now you are thinking of keeping al-Biqa' and part of the north. We are aware of this idea. (?You will also fail) this time. This is because we accept nothing less than all of Lebanon--from Ra's al-Nqurah to Nahr al-Kabir and from Mount Hermon to the Mediterranean Sea. Take heed of this fact: Just as you have left the larger part of Lebanon, you will eventually leave al-Biqa' and the north.

Today some people told me a story about your valiant soldiers with whom you want to fight Israel, the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese forces. They were manning a roadblock near 'Akkar, in that area of the country. This is how the joke goes: They were told: Israel will come. They answered: When Israel comes, we will charge a tax of 100 liras per tank, of 50 liras per armored personnel carrier and 25 liras per soldier--and then let them pass. This is your army, oh Hafiz al-Asad. Therefore, do not claim that you are the protector and the savior. Now that we have mentioned the battalions of your army, you will say that the T-72 tanks can neither be burned nor hit, and that they are the best weapon. This statement might be true. However, the men who are using them are of the lowest caliber--they are unqualified. These men are accustomed to eating on and riding donkeys. They are accustomed to leading donkeys, not to driving tanks. Therefore, allow us to make this point: This is a discredit to your army. An army of this caliber of efficiency does not deserve to operate modern tanks.

Uh, uh, uh! Now we will broach the subject of the army. All the people--officials and others alike--are demanding that Israel withdraw and hand the country over to the army. We regret to hear that all the people are demanding that Israel withdraw, but no one is mentioning the withdrawal of the Syrians and of the swindlers, as if this is a foregone conclusion. This is despite the fact that Israel came to help the army and to foster Lebanese sovereignty.

Let me cite an example: Approximately four Lebanese Army regiments are now deployed in the southern area and in western al-Biqa'. At this point, we need an explanation from the officials and those responsible for the army. If we consider Israel a hostile state, then--according to law--the army is supposed to fight the enemy, it is supposed to fight the enemy. Now suppose that the army has fought the enemy and that it has not been able to repulse it? Then, the enemy is supposed to take the army prisoner.

Now, (?what is going on in the south)? The army is present, and Israel is also present. We want to know what is the relationship between these two armies? If the army men consider themselves prisoners, then it is the duty of prisoners to escape captivity and to join their general command. Therefore, they were supposed to move; that is, to escape from Sidon, Tyre, Rashayya and from other places and to join the command at al-Yarzi. However, this has not happened. Nor will it occur. Therefore, what does this mean? It means that the army considers the Israeli Army an allied and friendly army. This is an actual and living example which proves to all those who say that Israel is an enemy that, in practical terms, Israel is not an enemy. Had Israel been an enemy, it would have disarmed and imprisoned them. More so, many of them carry their arms. You know that in Rashayya al-Wadi, at the beginning, they took the army's weapons, personnel carriers and other equipment. But we returned these weapons to the army. This does not happen between two hostile armies. It happens between friends.

Furthermore, at this time Mr Shafiq al-Wazzan wants to strip every Lebanese who deals with Israel of his nationality. Three quarters of the Lebanese have now entered Israel, returning with goods from Israel and going as tourists to Israel. Let al-Wazzan strip all Lebanese of their nationality. Then, he will be the only Lebanese left.

It must be kept in mind that when one loses one's nationality, then one demands (?anything). Therefore, we must be realists: The people have effectuated this openness to Israel because they want peace with Israel. The reason is that the people are aware that no state in the world has helped them the way Israel has helped them. No matter how much we try to hide the truth, it will not remain a secret to the people.

There are people who blame Israel for the war in the mountain. They say: Israel is the cause of the war in the mountain. Why doesn't Israel disarm one faction and let another faction become the ruling one, or I do not know what? Israel is strengthening one faction to the detriment of the other.

(?I tell you), because I know most or all Israeli officials, that the Israelis are more displeased with the incidents in the mountain than the Lebanese officials, than most of the Lebanese officials. Those who say something to the contrary are mistaken. Therefore, who is interested in nurturing the war in the mountain? Those who are interested in doing this thing are the enemies, particularly the Syrians and the swindlers, who are fanning the flames of the war in the mountain to put Israel in an embarrassing position.

You say: Let the Lebanese Army go up there. Let the Lebanese Army go to the mountain. Israel is not preventing the Lebanese Army from going to the mountain; I tell you this is untrue. I personally asked His Excellency Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon about this subject: Why don't you let the Lebanese Army go to the mountain? He told me: When did the Lebanese Army go there, and when did we prevent it from going? We are asking them to send the Lebanese Army, and they are telling us: We have no Lebanese Army to send to the mountain. We then hear the information media saying: Israel is nurturing the war and it is preventing the army. Then the truth must be said. Public opinion must

know what is going on. This is because Israel wants the army to go to the mountain, but the army is not going there. The reason is that there is no army any longer. At any rate, we suggest that the army units that are in west Beirut go to the mountain and let the Lebanese forces take over west Beirut. What is your opinion? (?This is an idea), or don't you have an army? Let them resolve this issue.

Only the enemy is nourishing and fanning the flames of war in the mountain. We hope that, and we ask--in all sincerity and with all our patriotic feelings--the residents of the mountain to ask themselves: Why is this war going on? Why are these killings and murders going on? Why are youths, old people, women and children being killed here and there? What interest lies in this internecine fighting? What gains will be achieved through this fighting? If a faction wants to expel another one, then this is illogical. More so, if a faction is evacuated temporarily, after a certain number of years it is going to return to its country. Therefore, you are the losers. You are the losers, oh residents of the mountain area. Do not lend your ears to the foreigners or to the aliens. Do not lend your ear to anyone. Just seek your interest and your future. We ask: Seven years have passed without a grinding war having broken out in the mountain. Why are you inciting a war at this time when everything has ended? This is like the saying: He is now going on a pilgrimage, while the pilgrims have already returned. What is the purpose behind this war? Do you know? You cannot know. You have no answer.

At any rate, if you realize that you still have some weapons and that you still have some ammunition you want to waste, then kindly use it against each other and spare the civilians. Let the combatants fight each other, but avoid the civilians. We regret every youth killed and every drop of blood shed by any Lebanese or whatever sect he is. Murder is a sin. There is no longer any reason for killing, for internecine fighting or for warring--and over what? Therefore, be logical and cease fighting, out of pity for the old people and for the children and out of pity for yourselves.

We also hear that another thing is happening. We hear that the morale of the Lebanese people has now collapsed, whether in east or west Beirut or anywhere else. The morale of the Lebanese has collapsed. Why? I will tell you why this morale has collapsed. Because the Lebanese people expected one thing, but another happened. The real Lebanese people have been waiting for the Israeli to carry out its operation for the past 7 years. For 7 years they have been asking us and asking Israel: When will you come and save us? When the operation began, morale was boosted and the people were overjoyed--they danced on the rooftops. However, now that the operation is over, long faces have appeared and the Lebanese people's morale has dropped. What is the reason? This is because what they expected has not happened. The Lebanese people expected that after this operation there would be a process of peace between Israel and Lebanon, and that Israel and Lebanon would collaborate and would free all the remaining parts of Lebanon--whether in al-Biqa' or in the north.

The official information media are trying to hide the facts. Therefore, the Lebanese are confused and they can no longer discriminate between what is true and what is untrue. The media tell the Lebanese people: All Lebanon's problems have been caused by Israel's intervention. But the Lebanese people remember

a few things. They think back and say: How, this claim is untrue. Had it not been for Israel, I would not have been able to move around freely. Had it not been for Israel, I would not have been able to enter the western area. Had it not been for Israel, I would not have been able to build and rest assured that my building would stay where I built it. Had it not been for Israel, I would not have been able to return to my country. Then some people would come and tell the Lebanese people: No, all this ruination has been caused by Israel. Therefore, the Lebanese are now suffering from psychological shock. The reason is that some people want them to believe in something that is incompatible with the truth. This is the difficulty. Some people with a weak will might believe these things. They are trying to do something like hypnosis. When some people tell the Lebanese: How does Israel come into the picture? The United States saved us. The United States saved you. But how has the United States saved us? We do not understand. Has the United States come over here and fought, shed blood and made such and such sacrifices?

Let us be realistic. When will the morale of the Lebanese people rise? The morale of the Lebanese people will rise when the course of their procession is rectified and when the people's desires are realized. This people knows that it has only found evil at the hands of the Arab states. How do you want them to feel? They tell them: The sisterly Syria, fraternal Iraq and brother I do not know whom, perhaps the Kuwait brother or also sisterly Libya--the best one of them.

In this country they have been nourishing the swindlers, the leftists and everything, and they have been sending fighters for 7 years to kill the Lebanese and to eliminate Lebanon. How can they then tell you: This one is a brother, that one is an enemy and the United States came and saved us?

All these things confound the Lebanese mind. The Lebanese are now uncertain and they do not know where they are heading. I repeat and say: So that the people's morale can be raised, the image must be redressed and the goals must be rectified so that they can pursue their correct course. Otherwise, everything will be lost.

Since we have broached this subject and mentioned Libya and others, it is inevitable for us to note for His Excellency the President of the republic his honorable attitude toward Libya and toward this Chedli Klibi--I do not know who he is, Klibi or Klaybi, it is all the same. Klaybi is better [Haddad is implying the word "kalb" which is Arabic for dog]. Therefore, we are speaking of a good slap in the face dealt to Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi. This is the first time that a Lebanese president has dared to deal al-Qadhdhafi double blows. However, when it comes to Klaybi, we hoped that a harder slap will be dealt to him and to all the Arab states whose representative he regards himself to be. We should have made it a condition that we either withdraw from this Arab League, or Chedli Klaybi be replaced by another person who will not be a Klaybi but will be an acceptable person. Therefore, we still say that we insist that we either withdraw or Klaybi be removed from his post.

The major event at the moment is the independence anniversary that falls tomorrow, 22 November. Lebanon is making preparations--it is cutting off roads for the parades and the vehicles. At this point, it is imperative for us to recall the process of independence and of the lifetime of independence. To start with, we became independent in 1943. Regardless of what is said and written about it, this independence was a grant bestowed upon us. But we became independent, whether independence was a grant [words indistinct], we became independent. However, this independence was not established on a solid foundation. This is why it was weak [words indistinct]. It was built on solutions. The 1943 formula is nothing but a kind of settlement. Some people say that it was the best formula. This is not so, because it has not survived at all. Within a short time following independence, demonstrations were staged in Beirut. In those days, there were patriarch 'Aridah, Bishop Mubarak and I do not know who. They tell us these things, we do not remember them--we were children. Riyadh al-Sulh's [former prime minister] followers then staged demonstrations and shouted: Blessed be your shoes, oh Riyadh and the (?church is) 'aridah ["aridah" means "wide"]. That was the strongest blow dealt to the Lebanese formula about which some are bragging and about which some are saying: This was the greatest and the best discovery. No, it was not the best discovery. This formula was made for us by the French, may God not give their souls rest. They worked out this formula for us to serve as a snare. They formulated it this way so we would again lose our independence and so that the French could return. They built the edifice of our independence on sand so that it would quickly collapse. This is what happened.

Afterward, in 1958, our independence was again shaken.

Our independence fell sick. Our independence suffered from an indisposition. Our independence had a heart attack, but was then cured. However, you know, according to doctors a person who suffers a heart attack is never cured. Such a person must look after his health to avoid another heart attack that would kill him.

Then we can say that this independence was built in poor health--from 1943 to 1958; that is, some 15 years. But 15 years are not the lifetime of an independence. From there onward, our independence suffered from a heart ailment. From 1958 onward, our independence became increasingly sick, particularly when Shihabism [reference to the late Lebanese President Fu'ad Shaihab], assumed power, which worsened things. Shihabism further aggravated the disease and quickly brought the death of independence closer. This independence died and was interred in 1975, specifically on 16 April, when the battle began between the swindlers and the Phalangist in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and the authority--at that time called legitimacy--refrained from interfering in favor of the Lebanese or against them.

The authority's failure to intervene in favor of the Lebanese in itself represented an action against Lebanon's interests and against Lebanon's sovereignty. Thus, independence died, was interred and has been dead for 7 years. Perhaps independence has even crumbled into dust.

If we now want to celebrate 22 November, then we will be like someone celebrating the death anniversary of a dead person--the annual death anniversary of a dead person. However, if we want to celebrate this death anniversary, as if the dead person was still alive, then this is illogical. If you want to celebrate the independence anniversary, then observe it as you would observe a death anniversary.

At this time, there is an independence. Verily, the signs and good tidings of a new independence have begun to appear. Therefore, the new independence must not necessarily be observed on 22 November. We can set other dates for it. For instance, 13 April, when the uprising began against those who had encroached against sovereignty. Or 18 April, when the sons of this area--despite their small number--defied all international conspiracies and proclaimed free Lebanon so that Lebanon would survive. This considerably helped Lebanon survive and safeguard itself. Had we not embarked on the declaration of free Lebanon on 18 April, Lebanon would not have survived. The aim was to confront all plots being hatched against Lebanon. These plots primarily aimed at disposing of southern Lebanon and what they used to call the border strip so that Hafiz al-Asad and others would be able to completely destroy all of Lebanon and annex it to Syria. Thus, we can fix 18 April or 23 August, the date of the election of the late Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, because his election in itself was a revolution, a consecration of the victory and the beginning of independence, or we can fix the consolidation of victory on the day when we elected Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. But tell me, is 22 November the day to celebrate the anniversary of independence? This is illogical.

Anyway, celebrations will be held tomorrow on Fu'ad Shihab Street in west Beirut. Here, I must ask everyone who will participate in the celebrations, be he a politician, a civilian, a military man or a spectator, to remember that for years he could not even walk along this street. Two years ago, President Sarkis wanted a military parade in al-Fayyadiyah playground. Army personnel were gathered and wore beautiful, camouflaged and shining uniforms and so on and so forth. They saw fit to bring helicopters to fly over the al-Fayyadiyah playground. During the parade--the playground was under the government's (?control)--unfortunately a poor pilot, who must have been a weak pilot, flew beyond the playground limits toward Beirut. At the same moment he went beyond the limits, the swindlers and leftists opened fire on the helicopter. Why? Because it violated the sovereignty of west Beirut.

Today, or rather, tomorrow, they will celebrate in central west Beirut. Those who could not go 1 centimeter beyond the al-Fayyadiyah playground will celebrate tomorrow in west Beirut. This, undoubtedly, is a victory and an important event, and I congratulate them on this with all my heart. God willing, they will be able to parade throughout Lebanon and even on the banks of the al-Kabir River. Here we must remember how it has become possible for us to enter west Beirut [words indistinct]. If Hafiz al-Asad was really zealous about Lebanon's sovereignty, why didn't he, the Syrians and the swindlers allow the army to hold a parade. If Israel hadn't entered and liberated west Beirut from the Syrians, swindlers and leftists, the Lebanese Army would not be able to enter west Beirut and hold a parade there. Thus, if the Israeli Army were an enemy army, it would not allow or take the Lebanese Army by its hand to hand over west Beirut and say to the army: Start from here by building yourself and

returning Lebanese sovereignty. Now, do you see the difference between the Syrians and the Israelis? There are still some people who say that all ordeals and devastation were caused by Israel.

These facts must not be forgotten by anyone. There are also people who say that our interests dictate that we attack Israel at least on the information level and court the Arabs, because of our economic interests and because there are Lebanese working in the Arab countries as well as U.S. pressure on us. I am against all this. After 7 years of devastation and ruination we have realized that we have no friend among the Arab countries. On the contrary, all of them want to ruin and destroy us. You say that if we adjust our relations with Israel, the Arab countries will expel the Lebanese who are working in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the Gulf. If they expel them, we will ask them why they did not expel the Egyptian workers? Why the Lebanese and not the Egyptians? If they insist on expelling the Lebanese, it means that this is another reason that we must adopt a stand and sever relations with them.

I tell you that they will not expel the Lebanese workers because they need them, more importantly, they need the Lebanese brain. We are exporting brains to them, especially since all the Arab countries, most of the people of the Arab countries and most of the Arabs are without brains. But for the Lebanese brain, they would still be riding camels, eating locusts and sleeping in tents. Lice and fleas would still be roaming on their bodies. Therefore, they still [need] the Lebanese brain. If we pull out the Lebanese brain, they will return to their origin, to their dirt and to their shame. Therefore, there is no fear that they will expel the Lebanese.

In any case, if they ultimately decide to expel the Lebanese from the Arab countries, let this be. We prefer to live in pride and dignity than to remain lackeys of the Arab countries because we need their money. It is more honorable for us; not only more honorable but safer for us because we no longer trust them. We no longer trust them and hand our necks to them.

We want strong relations with Israel because it has proved that it is the only state that extends a hand of assistance to us. We ask for guarantees and relations not only because we love Israel. True, we love Israel because it has helped us and we are grateful to it. However, we love our homeland much more than we love Israel. We want these relations to be established in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese. These relations are a guarantee for Lebanon's future against all the grudges and conspiracies of the Arabs. This is why we say we want relations. We want guarantees for the future.

The Arab countries which will respect our sovereignty and cooperate with us are welcome. But it should be an equal relationship. Those who do not like this, we say a thousand good-byes to them. We don't care about anyone.

You tell me that there was a consensus on the election of His Excellency the President--a local consensus comprising all the deputies, an international consensus and an Arab consensus. I tell you we are happy with this consensus. However, this consensus should be no reason for His Excellency the President to eschew the aspirations of the people who are demanding guarantees for the

future. This consensus should be employed in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

Those who have an excuse, let them object. Why? Because they had confidence in the president while knowing that he is from a certain line, from the Lebanese Phalangists, from the Lebanese Front, from the rightist line and that he was fighting all the time against the Arabs and the swindlers. Yet, they gave him their votes. Therefore, we must employ this consensus in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese. Until this happens, we will remain steadfast in the south and everywhere for the sake of Lebanon's interest.

Today some people ask what is required? What the sons of free Lebanon particularly require from the regime--because they consider the regime to be part of them--is that it should at least fulfill their material rights. It is true that man cannot live on bread alone. The opposite is also true. With faith alone man cannot live. He also cannot live without bread.

Some say that the issue of militias in all Lebanon has not yet been solved. We say that the subject here in free Lebanon has two parts. The first part deals with the military men who are still the backbone of the Lebanese Army. The administrative, living and rank conditions of these military men must be settled. This is their right before the regime because they contributed by fighting toward the assumption of the president to the presidential office.

Once the conditions of the military men are settled, what will apply to the militias of the Lebanese forces will apply to the militias here. When a solution is found for the Lebanese forces, there will be a solution for the militias here.

We are not illogical. We are logical in our demands. The problem must be divided into two parts. The first part must have been settled 6 months ago. This is the part pertaining to the military men. This is a reproof. I tell you frankly that here the sons of the area reprove the regime of which they are a part. Therefore, their conditions must be settled. As for the militias, their fate will remain tied to the fate of the Lebanese forces with which they form an indivisible unity.

Everyone must understand that if we demand the rights of the military men, the militias, the civilians and the others, this does not mean--as some may think--that the army of free Lebanon will be dissolved. On the contrary; it will be strengthened and it will be better organized and will increase in number and equipment. As for money, we shall do the impossible to provide the necessary funds. In the difficult times, everyone knows that we have done the impossible to assist the people and the military men to secure their livelihood and reach the safehaven. Likewise today, we shall not let anyone starve. We shall do the impossible to assist everyone. We were hoping that the regime would help--not help but rather pay what these military men are entitled to, because they have a legitimate right. But it seems there are outside and local pressures. This will not prevent us from standing fast and from continuing the march. We shall remain steadfast, because Lebanon is in danger, and as long as Lebanon is in danger, we shall not surrender. We shall not lay down our arms until the whole of Lebanon is liberated, becomes independent, united and is reassured of its future. Then we shall lay down our arms, and say may you live long, and long live free Lebanon, sovereign and independent.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SA'D HADDAD GIVEN

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 138, 2-8 Oct 82 pp 14-16

/Article: "Cover Story: AL-MAJALLAH Opens the Secret File on Sa'd Haddad"/

/Text/ The massacre in the two Palestinian camps of Sabra and Shatila has again "shed light" on Sa'd Haddad, the Lebanese officer whom Israel "created" and whose "state" in southern Lebanon it formed, financed and has supported in every way. Israel has volunteered the denial that Sa'd Haddad and his forces took part in the Beirut massacre. Sa'd Haddad has also denied it. However, information and evidence clearly shows that units of his did participate with other militia forces in the slaughter of the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila.

AL-MAJALLAH is opening the secret file on Sa'd Haddad in this report. It has obtained its information from political and military personalities who are familiar with him. It has obtained observations which the war school commander wrote after Haddad graduated from the school in order to help the Lebanese Army command guide him in the future. It has also managed to acquire a summary of a secret report presented by the Lebanese army's intelligence department to the former president Ilyas Sarkis.

Sa'd Haddad was born in 1935 in the town of Marj'uyun (situated near the Lebanese-Israeli border) in a family of moderate material means and size. He grew up, from childhood, in a military atmosphere, especially since the Lebanese Army barracks in Marj'uyun were close to his home and his father, who had served in the French army and then in the Lebanese army, was the friend of more than one officer and military official there. Sa'd had hardly passed the first cycle of the high school diploma the second time around (having had to take it over the first time) when his family and its friends encouraged him to join the war school so that he could eventually become an army officer. That is what happened: after passing the entrance examinations, with the intercession of some officers and the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Tyre, Sa'd was admitted to the war school as an officer trainee in 1957. Observations the war school commander presented to the army command after Haddad's graduation state "Haddad was a shy student. He liked sports but was 'rough' in his relationship with his comrades. During his period of study in the war school, which lasted 3 years, he received no punishment for conduct to speak of; rather, the punishments he received for falling behind in his coursework. He was bright in marksmanship and running and was advised by the officer in charge to choose the infantry as a field of specialization."

Haddad graduated with the rank of second lieutenant in the infantry in 1960. The army command soon sent him on a training course to the applied infantry school in France. He return in 1961 to Lebanon to serve in the fourth infantry regiment in the al-Fayyadiyah barracks; then in 1966 he was transferred to the Marj'uyun barracks.

The Command Agreed to Cooperate!

A senior officer who knew him closely stresses that Sa'd did not have a conspicuous social life. Rather, he lived with his family, off in a corner, avoiding contact with his officer colleagues and their families. He would even sit by himself in the officer clubs, while his comrades gathered in circles for discussion sessions or recreation. However, he was known for his physical rigidity and his mountain nature, which showed up in his clothes (since he did not care about his attire) and his behavior. Sa'd is now married and has five girls (it is also said that he has been blessed with a sixth one).

In 1969 the first battle took place between the Lebanese army and the Palestinian resistance, after a rocket was fired and military operations were launched against Israel from Lebanon. Haddad chased a group of Palestinian guerrillas at that time. After a violent struggle with them, he was hit by a stray bullet which went through the pocket of his shirt and a pack of cigarettes, and he received a light wound. When the Cairo agreement was signed in 1969, Haddad presented a protest against this agreement to the army command, especially after he learned that his job would be to cooperate with the Palestinian guerrillas in his area.

Haddad's former colleagues say that he had no political attachments all during his military career, and even that he did not offer opinions on any political subjects, although it was known that he liked former president Camille Chamoun, although he had never met him, at least, until 1975, the year the 2-years'-war broke out, when Haddad was transferred to the Ba'labakk barracks in the al-Biq'a'.

When Lt Ahmad al-Khatib broke off from the Lebanese army and declared the establishment of the Arab Army of Lebanon, his movement, with the aid of joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, attacked the Ba'labakk military barracks and the noncommissioned officers' school. Maj Haddad escaped with some Christian officers and military men under the cover of darkness to the Ministry of National Defense in al-Yarzah and became attached to that. After al-Khatib's movement had expanded and most of the military barracks had fallen into the hands of his troops and the Lebanese-Palestinian forces, especially in the south, the commander of the Lebanese army at that time, Gen Hanna Sa'id, summoned Haddad and asked him to go to Marj'uyun and defend the area there against probable attacks from Ahmad al-Khatib and the joint forces.

When Sa'd reached Marj'uyun, most of the military barracks there had fallen to al-Khatib's soldiers and his allies. A number of soldiers, in turn, had left the barracks and (before Haddad arrived) joined Maj Sami Shidyaq, who was also there by orders of the Lebanese Army command. At that time, violent battles took place between the Lebanese army under Haddad's command and Maj Shidyaq and the "joint forces." At that time the Israelis started sending some officers to Haddad to offer help. Sa'd sent cables to the army command in al-Yarzah asking what it thought

about the Israeli aid that had been offered him. One day, as a friend close to Haddad says, he received a telegram from Gen Hanna Sa'id advising him to accept the Israeli aid "if necessary." Haddad accepted the Israeli military aid, and the history of cooperation between him and Israel started from that date. However, he received his soldiers' pay via Capt 'Adnan Humsi of the Ministry of National Defense. When the news of this cooperation leaked out, Gen Sa'id denied the identity of this telegram and stressed that he did not know about this cooperation. Haddad began to be totally independent of the army and started to rely completely on Israel.

Sarkis and Haddad

When President Ilyas Sarkis assumed the Lebanese presidency in 1976, and at that time sought to start rebuilding the Lebanese army, the intelligence department offered him some recommendations in the form of a report on ways to solve some of the problems which inhibited the construction of a new army. That report stated that the two most important problems obstructing the construction of the army were Ahmad al-Khatib's movement and that of Sa'd Haddad. Since Ahmad al-Khatib's movement had become more political than military, its situation could be resolved through political contacts. Sa'd Haddad's movement, however, would have to be solved by other means, through American pressure on Israel or money. It seems that Sarkis took the intelligence department's advice and through the army command offered Haddad the sum of 250,000 Lebanese pounds and at Shidyaq the same sum to disband their movement and go abroad. They were given a promise that they would face no prosecution in the future.

Sarkis' step worked in the case of Maj al-Shidyaq, who accepted the offer, took the sum offered him and immediately went off to Canada, where he is still working. Maj Haddad refused the offer and demanded to be taken back into the Lebanese army. That was under encouragement from Israel.

In the face of this new state of affairs, Sarkis and his premier had to take some steps, especially since the man in the Islamic street had started to demand that Haddad be officially severed from the army. At that time Haddad and al-Khatib were taken to military court in absentia and were officially severed from the army. From that day, Haddad's and al-Khatib's salaries were cut off.

In 1978 Israel invaded southern Lebanon and an emergency session of the Security Council was held, as a consequence of which Lebanon demanded a full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and the dispatch of 6,000 United Nations soldiers to the south. When the United Nations troops arrived, Israel withdrew several kilometers, leaving a large area in the hands of Sa'd Haddad and his troops and another area in the hands of the United Nations troops. After that, Haddad announced the birth of the "Republic of Free Lebanon" in this portion, that is, the birth of an entity totally dependent on Israel.

"The Major's State"

In Sa'd Haddad's "state," the "major," as his men call him, holds his press conferences in the Arizim Hotel in Metulla, inside Israel's borders, where he is surrounded by Israeli officers who monitor his statements.

The fact is that since 1976 Sa'd Haddad has become the devoted ally of the Israelis and their cover for intervention in southern Lebanon. This Lebanese officer came to life as an idea in the Israeli expansionist scheme before he joined the Lebanese army. In 1954, as Moshe Sharett, the former prime minister of Israel, relates in his memoirs, Moshe Dayan, who at that time was the Israeli chief of staff, recommended to Sharett that the effort be made to find a Lebanese Christian officer "if only of the rank of major" whom "we could then invite or buy off in order to get him to declare himself 'the savior of the Christians,' after which the Israeli army will come into Lebanon, occupy the necessary territory, establish a 'Christian regime' which will be allied with Israel, then annex the territory situated south of the al-Litani, so that everything will be as it should."

From that time until 1976, Israel was not able to realize any steps along the road to its dreams. One night that year an unknown person attached a note on a small piece of paper to the fence demarcating Israel's northern borders and an Israeli patrol came upon it the next morning. That was followed by the first meeting between Israeli soldiers and an unknown Lebanese officer. As a result of the meeting, Israel agreed to take in wounded Lebanese soldiers and civilians who had been injured during the war, which was at its peak. After that the first meeting took place with an officer from the Roman Orthodox /sic/ sect, and the Israeli plan was put into execution. That officer was Sa'd Haddad; however, his identity remained unknown for a period of time.

In March 1978, the news was confirmed. The Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR published a picture of a senior Israeli officer who was leading the Israeli invasion forces inside Lebanon as he shook hands with a Lebanese officer wearing the uniform of the Lebanese army and a cap with a visor. The newspaper did not reveal the name of the Lebanese officer, but the face was familiar. The following day the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR reprinted the picture, copied from AL-NAHAR, on its front page and identified the officer: he was Maj Sa'd Haddad.

In April 1979, Haddad declared the establishment of the "State of Free Lebanon," with himself as president, and set out a flag for it: a green Lebanese cedar and a blue Star of David, as a symbol of his firm alliance with Israel. Sa'd Haddad's "state" was a state only in name: it had no government, no parliamentary deputies, no elections, no customs duties, no municipal authorities and no police, just a "half-military half-civilian" court whose verdicts no one ever heard of. The economy was in a terrible state of chaos. Israel bought the tobacco crop the people of the south lived on, trucks came from Beirut bringing agricultural products, and the smuggling of goods and products was commonplace. The Lebanese farmers would cross the "good fence" to Israel to work in the fields there. Water was piped in from Israel. Electricity came from the north, from al-Nabatiyab. One of the functions of the military operations Haddad's men carry out has been to threaten, and carry out threats, to destroy al-Nabatiyab if the electricity to "his state" is cut off. That has happened more than once.

An official Lebanese presence is absent. Haddad's men, who number about 2,000 men in arms, are in charge of security affairs. They set up barriers at the entryways to the state and are always prepared to conduct military operations. They even take their Sherman tanks, white in color, which Israel has supplied them with, to

their homes. Their military uniforms are made in Israel and they are the same as those the Israeli soldiers wear. Therefore, when Israeli soldiers remove the insignia from their shoulders and go into Haddad's state, it is no longer possible to distinguish them from the people in the militia there.

The salaries of Haddad's militia have been paid by the Israeli treasury since that time. Therefore, Israel determines the size of this militia, although Haddad still considers that he belongs to the Lebanese army and therefore insists on wearing that army's uniform and says that "he did not leave the army but that it left him." When the government in Beirut decided to strengthen the Lebanese military presence, in the context of the international forces, to help apply the international Security Council's resolutions on deploying these forces over the entire south, Haddad remembered his "money" and demanded that he be given \$2.5 million in back pay for his troops and threatened to bombard Sidon and wreak destruction costing an equivalent amount of money there. He carried out his threat in March of last year, bombarding Sidon for a period of 3 days and inflicting dozens of casualties on its inhabitants.

He Resigned and Returned

A few days after that, Haddad revealed the true nature of his goals in the bombardment. He had drawn the Lebanese army a "red line" which he would not permit it to cross. His forces were Lebanese and there was no reason to bring in other forces "by directives of the Syrian occupation." That came out at a press conference. Haddad gave in the Israeli hotel that had been allocated for the purpose, declaring that he would fight the international forces to the death if they insisted on extending their writ to the south. As usual senior Israeli officers were present, backing up Haddad's threats and warning the international forces command not to cause serious disturbances.

The soldiers in the international forces feel great loathing toward Haddad. A number of people in their ranks have been killed, especially in the Nigerian and Turkish battalions, the Dutch battalion's position has been bombarded, and the United Nations headquarters in al-Naqurah, where there were 1,150 civilians and military personnel, were besieged for 3 days and deprived of water and food supplies, while their cars, which were parked on the Israeli side of the border, were removed, and Israel was not able to convince the world that it was not responsible for what was going on.

In the face of international condemnation of Israel for giving free rein to Haddad and his armed men, Menachem Begin met with Haddad when he was in a hospital in Haifa, to which he had been taken "because of exhaustion," and where he stayed for 5 days, and convinced him of the need to avoid coming up against the international forces and civilians when clashing with the Palestinian resistance forces. The situation immediately reversed itself, and some senior Israeli officers' allegation that Haddad was a "Frankenstein monster" who had rebelled against his creator and started to constitute a threat to him collapsed. The "forces of the fait accompli"--the designation the international forces give Haddad's militia--started to avoid clashing with the international forces, and the justification for the clashes disappeared when Haddad, under duress, committed himself to the cease fire which the

American emissary Phillip Habib worked out with Israel and the Palestinian resistance on 24 July 1981.

However, Sa'd Haddad could not stay silent for long. Haddad started to claim that the resistance was violating the cease fire in the south and that his patience was about to end. It was necessary to discuss the situation with Israel, which had not yet prepared plan for the invasion, had expressed its irritation, and had tried to prove its good intentions by carrying out new appointments in the office of the Israeli liaison with the "State of Free Lebanon." These appointments did not please Haddad, who considered that they diminished his influence, and last November he announced his resignation and appointed a successor, a Maronite officer in the Lebanese army name of Sharbal Barakat. However, within 48 hours he withdrew the resignation and resumed carrying out his missions. When he resigned, the explanation he gave was "health reasons," and when he returned the reason he gave was "the termination of internal problems." His return was accompanied by new appointments through which he rid himself of some of his aides. Observers think it likely that Haddad came back only when he received a promise from Israel that it would carry out its major operation in Lebanon in a few months. From that time on, the foreign papers have been stating that Haddad invited Israel to come into Lebanon to eliminate the Palestinian resistance and throw the Syrians out of the country, and it seems as if Israel responded to the invitation. Last June, Israeli forces entered Lebanon and concentrated on Haddad's targets in their operation, which is still going on.

From the first day of the invasion, Israel declared that what it wanted was to strengthen Haddad's influence in the government in Lebanon. Begin made a visit to the al-Shaqif Fortress in Arnun, a fortified Palestinian resistance position in southern Lebanon, and told foreign journalists that he was offering the fortress as a gift to Haddad, who had come to receive it. After that, numerous statements were attributed to Begin, in which he said that Sa'd Haddad would have to be the president of Lebanon or participate in the Beirut government. That is exactly the position Haddad adopted in his statements to the foreign press. He informed the FINANCIAL TIMES that he insisted on having a say in the future regime. He explains his statement as follows: "We will maintain relations with Israel, sign a peace treaty with it with open borders, and, if necessary, will make a mutual defense treaty to cope with threats which might come from Arab countries, especially Syria, in the future."

Now Haddad is standing up to the new regime. The president of Lebanon, Amin al-Jumayyil, has declared that he will seek to expel the foreign forces, including the Israeli ones, from Lebanon, and has stressed the Arab affiliation, which Haddad wants to exchange for an alliance with Israel.

At a press meeting, Sa'd Haddad declared that Bashir al-Jumayyil alone would not be able to build the proper foundations of government and that the withdrawal of the Israelis would make it difficult for Bashir to continue and would lead to the outbreak of civil war; therefore it would be necessary to keep the Israelis, to provide indispensable assistance.

What observers consider likely is that Haddad, and, behind him, Israel, will try to win the new president of Lebanon over to the advice Haddad tried to give his late brother before he took power. It is not out of the question that Haddad will embark on new steps to establish the "validity" of his belief."

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CSO: 4404/65

LEBANON

BRIEFS

HADDAN ON ARMY, OIL PRICE--1. Since we are reorganizing the Free Lebanon Army, we announce to everyone we will not be able to accept into it anyone who has left it or for some reason has been released from it. 2. Since the refinery station in al-Zahrani has started distributing crude oil [mazut], the owners of the sale stations are asked to adhere to the official price, 22 Lebanese pounds per can, adding to it the transportation expenses. Likewise, the commanders of the police squads in free Lebanon are asked to conduct checks to curb and eliminate incidents of price manipulation. [Text] [Statement by Maj Sa'd Haddan on 19 November; place not given--read by announcer] [TA190733 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Nov 82]

AL-ZAHRANI REFINERY TO RESUME OPERATIONS--Industry and Oil Ministry sources have affirmed that the al-Zahrani oil refinery will resume operation on 25 November after a stoppage of about 6 months because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory and the serious damage which the refinery sustained. The sources say an oil tanker carrying 50,000 barrels of oil has arrived at the al-Zahrani refinery from Saudi Arabia. [Text] [NC200753 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 82]

FORMATION OF LEBANESE SENATE--Kuwait, 20 Nov (QNA)--The Kuwaiti magazine AL-MAJALIS which is published in Beirut in today's edition quoted what it describes as well-informed Lebanese sources as saying that legal studies are being conducted to develop a special legislation pertaining to the formation of a Lebanese Senate that will include as members former presidents, prime ministers and Parliament members as well as senior political and administrative personalities. The magazine added that the above-mentioned Senate is expected to play a consultative role in major, executive issues. [Text] [GF201454 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 82]

MERCHANTS TRADING WITH ISRAEL TO BE PENALIZED--Economy and Tourism Minister Ibrahim Halawah has stated that there is a trend to impose penalties on merchants dealing with Israel. In an interview to be published by the weekly MONDAY MORNING tomorrow, Halawah says laws will be issued penalizing exploiters, swindlers and profiteers. Halawah expresses his hope that tourism will return to Lebanon with the restoration of security, saying: The hotels of greater Beirut will be reopened. [Text] [NC210927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Nov 82]

CSO: 4400/97

ECONOMY, LIGHT INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ISSUES VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS

Tripoli AL-MUNTIJUN in Arabic 16 Oct 82 p 3

[Article: "Resolutions and Recommendations of General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries During Third Ordinary Session of 1982"]

[Text] The General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries held its third session of 1982 at the committee headquarters in Tripoli from 4-6 October 1982. It reviewed the implemented part of the resolutions it adopted at its second meeting of 1982 and the accomplishments outlined to it by the statements of the committee secretary, in light of the field visits he made to the municipalities and the production sites, and in light of the observations and impressions he expressed regarding what he had seen on the spot.

The committee expressed its satisfaction with the standards for resolution implementation, both at the level of the committee secretariat and the level of the municipal secretariats. The committee has underlined the following instructions:

1. The economic conditions being experienced by the Jamahiriya and the plots surrounding it and aimed at undermining its freedom and its revolutionary gains require us all to exert greater efforts and to engage in creative action in order to establish an economic base founded on increased and diversified production and aimed at meeting the essential needs of society's members.
2. The limited financial resources must be an incentive to us to raise production and to enhance society's production capability through the ideal utilization of the resources in a way that enables us to meet our essential needs at the lowest cost.
3. The shaky conditions engulfing the world economy which affect our economy, either negatively or positively, and the economic pressures aimed against the Jamahiriya people require all of us to enlighten the citizens through the people's congresses and the people's and revolutionary committees in order to crystalize their position vis-a-vis the challenges facing them through sound consumption habits and through contributing to enhanced production.

Proceeding on this basis, the producers' and professional unions and associations and the revolutionary information media are called upon to make the citizens understand their role in this regard, in streamlined consumption and in achieving the set production targets of the various plants and production units.

4. While keeping in mind the above-mentioned instructions and given facts, the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries pledges to exert further efforts and work to establish a strong socialist economy founded on reduced consumption and increased production to meet the needs. In this respect, the committee has adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions, including the following:

First, Followup Resolutions:

The committee reaffirms the resolutions it adopted in its second session of 1982.

The departments concerned have been instructed to continue their followup and to make sure that the unimplemented part of the resolutions is carried out, especially the recommendations and resolutions adopted regarding wool gathering and processing, the distribution of carbonated drinks, cooperation with the trucking company to transport local production and regarding maintenance of the production lines of the flour mills and fodder plants.

The General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries has also decided that the brother municipal secretaries shall initiate immediate and constant followup on the plants and production units within their jurisdiction to make sure that the equipment and machinery already received but not yet installed is installed and put into operation, and that damaged equipment is repaired and that its production capacity is enhanced. They shall also ensure the implementation of the instructions issued by the meetings of the revolutionary committees on increasing production and operating at least two shifts in the plants and production units in order to increase local production of the various commodities and products.

Industrial Development

The committee has underlined the importance of the approved industrial program. The companies and establishments concerned shall be instructed to take immediate practical measures needed to implement the program at least by the end of 1983.

Fish Farming

The Marine Resources Agency has been instructed to draw up a specific and complete program for fish farming in the Jamahiriyyah in light of the indicated studies. This program shall be presented during the committee's

next meeting and shall include the projects, goals, necessary investments and an executive program.

The committee has also reaffirmed the resolution it adopted in its previous meeting regarding the system of sale of the carbonated drinks and regarding the need for the companies and the plants to abide by the approved prices for carbonated drinks.

Second, Commodity and Production Budgets:

The committee reviewed the 1983 commodity budget and industrial budget and has expressed its satisfaction with the efforts exerted in this respect. I stressed the need for compliance with this budget within the framework of set priorities and with serious efforts to increase the local production of various goods and commodities, to utilize in an ideal manner the capacity of the plants and production units and to achieve surpluses in them in order to serve the national economy.

The committee also stresses that the companies and establishments engaged in importation must take into consideration the best prices, the quality of the goods and the actual need for the imported commodities. Consideration must also be given to finding new markets within the framework of the Jamahiriyah's relations with the various countries of the world and to getting the best terms for bolstering the economic structures and making use of technical expertise in return for the purchase of goods and commodities.

The committee has also expressed its observations and recommendations in this regard, stressing in particular the need to enlarge the areas of fruit cultivation, to draw up the agricultural programs capable of supplying fruits in quantities capable of meeting the citizens' needs and the need to form a strategic store of wheat and food supplies.

In implementation of the resolutions of the 1981 third ordinary session of the people's basic congresses to increase production and to enhance the production capability, and in appreciation of the responsibilities entrusted to the committee members and to the workers of the sector's agencies, companies and plants to implement the resolutions. The committee urges all the other departments and agencies concerned, especially banks, customs, public service, electricity, passports, ports and the Urban Mobilization Command to cooperate with the industrial companies and plants and to facilitate acquisition of requirements for operation and importation of foreign expertise that is not available locally. They must adapt their procedural regulations to make it possible for the industrial companies and plants to supply the needs of the industrial sector promptly and to insure the continued operation of these companies and plants in accordance with the set production targets. The committee has also issued its resolutions and recommendations in this regard, including:

Approval of the 1983 production targets, taking into consideration the committee's observations on these targets. The committee urges the people's

committees in the companies and the factories to exert utmost efforts to achieve the set production figures. The industrial companies must exert efforts to operate their plants at the rate of at least two shifts daily, unless there are objective reasons acceptable to the committee which bar such operation.

The committee also urges constant efforts to raise the plants' productivity and to reduce the production costs.

The 1983 Draft Commodity Budget for Industrial Companies:

The committee has reviewed the draft commodity budget of the sector's industrial companies and the 1983 draft budget for commodity imports and has requested that the two drafts be referred to the resources committee, along with its observations which include:

- A. Considering the sums allocated for the industrial companies as the minimum sums necessary to operate the plants under its control.
- B. Warning that any reduction in the sums allocated for importing essentials for operating the plants will necessarily lead to reduced production and to failure to achieve the figures set for the national industrial production in 1983. This production was taken into consideration when determining the volume of imports of similar commodities in the 1983 commodity imports budget or determining not to import such commodities in view of the national industry's capability to meet the local market needs of such commodities.
- C. It recommends that the decision approving the budget grant adequate powers to the budget committee to increase the allocations for the industrial companies' commodity budget beyond the set figures if the request for an increase is due to the need to meet the requirements of an increased number of shifts in the plant or plants controlled by the committee, to expansion in these plants, or to the installation of new production lines or units listed in the light industries production development program, if such lines or units are put into operation ahead of the timetable set for them in the program.
- D. It recommends that the resources committee and the commodity budget committee instruct commercial banks to facilitate credit, to develop procedures for opening credit accounts as long as the remittances volume is within the company's approved commodity budget and advancing the necessary credit according to the volume of the work which the companies are assigned to implement.

In Sphere of Industrial Production

The committee reviewed the industrial production report for the first half of 1982 and (discussed with the industrial companies the figures recorded during this period). While lauding the companies which achieved the figures targeted

for their plants, the committee urges the industrial companies that have not yet brought the production of their plants up to an acceptable level to exert serious efforts to correct the deviations, after discussing the causes and means to correct them in the plant's production meeting and with the plant and company people's committee. They must then present a report to the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industry pointing out the causes and the measures which must be taken but fall beyond the jurisdiction of the company people's committee.

Regarding Industrial and Commercial Companies and Establishments

The committee also reviewed what has been done to supply vehicle spare parts and maintenance workshops and to spread the services of the vehicles sector to the various parts of the Jamahiriyah. The committee has decided the following:

Work hours in the distribution centers belonging to the General Engines Company and to the (Tibesti) Car Company will be during the morning and evening hours.

In distributing the budget allocations for the various items, consideration must be given to assigning priority in allocations and imports to frequently and quickly consumed items.

The General Engines Company and the Tibesti Car Company will be assigned to draw up an administration program to begin manufacturing small spare parts that can be manufactured locally.

The Tibesti Company and the Engines Company will be assigned to set up a larger number of workshops, to offer maintenance work throughout all parts of the Jamahiriyah and to exert efforts to supply maintenance requirements and spare parts systematically and regularly.

Resolution No 10

The committee discussed the activity of the National Markets Company and examined the relationship binding the company to its branches and offices and to the specialized municipal committees in light of the resolutions of the committee's second session of 1982. In light of the memoranda, projections and explanations presented, the committee has adopted several recommendations and resolutions, including: The need for the distribution companies and establishments to be present in all the municipalities through distribution centers established for that purpose in all the municipalities, in addition to the public markets in the area. The companies directorate and the production and distribution directorate shall follow up with the various companies on the implementation of this resolution, provided that this is done before the end of the current year in cooperation and coordination with the municipal secretaries of economy and light industries.

The National Markets Company shall also be assigned to offices in the municipalities where the companies have no offices and shall give the municipal offices' secretaries flexibility and powers to supply goods to the markets and to organize the markets' administrative affairs in a manner that enables them to move forward and carry out the tasks entrusted to them.

Followup on Transformation Plan

The committee reviewed the followup reports on the economy and light industries sector and adopted the necessary measures.

Mines and Quarries

The committee reviewed the memorandum of the Public Directorate of Industrial Organization and Services regarding the mines and quarries and the memoranda of a number of brother secretaries on the issue and adopted the necessary resolutions on them, including the decision to set the sale price of a cubic meter of gravel at the quarry site at 3 dinars. The secretary of economy and light industries in every municipality shall study the gravel production cost in his area and reset its price at no more than 3 dinars per cubic meter. A committee has also been formed to study the issue of organizing and utilizing the quarries.

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CSO: 4504/50

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

PFLP, YSP OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING 22 NOVEMBER

GF221855 Aden ANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Aden, 22 Nov (ANA)--The second session of talks between the YSP delegation, led by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and the PFLP delegation, led by Brother George Habash, secretary general of the front, was held today.

During the session the two sides stressed the importance of serious and diligent work for the struggle of all Arab liberation forces on the regional level and for the forces that can mobilize all the energies and capabilities of our Arab nation in the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary attacks in the Arab region. The two sides also affirmed that the U.S. imperialism and its allies in the region will not be able to prevent the Arab peoples from struggling to complete their liberation, social progress, democratic unity and the victory of the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil and under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The two sides stressed that the aggressive imperialist policy in the region on the international level is nothing but an expression of the grave crisis which the capitalist regime is (?suffering) from and that the international revolutionary movement, led by the socialist bloc and all the peace-loving peoples, including our peoples, is capable of infusing new defeats on the imperialists and saving the world from the threat of nuclear war, which threatens humanity and its peaceful development.

The two sides discussed the development of the struggle relations between the YSP and the PFLP and expressed their satisfaction at the current level of their relations. The two sides also stressed the importance of strengthening relations in order to serve the goals of the joint struggle of the fraternal Yemeni and Palestinian peoples.

Brother George Habash, PFLP secretary general, expressed his extreme satisfaction about the national and democratic accomplishments and gains achieved by the people and government of PDRY under the leadership of YSP, which [words indistinct] of the YSP in the framework of the national Arab liberation movement and its firm and principled support for the Palestinian revolution.

CSO: 4400/95

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

YEMENI, ETHIOPIAN, PALESTINIAN MEETING--The AL-RABI' 'ASHAR October daily affirmed that the meetings of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in Moscow with many leaders of countries, parties and national liberation movements has brought good results. In its editorial today the paper stated that the most prominent of these meetings was the meeting held under the auspices of the brother secretary general between the Palestinian leader, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, and the Ethiopian leader, Mengistu Haile Marian. It added that this is the greatest meeting between the three revolutions Yemeni, Ethiopian and Palestinian. The paper stated that this meeting is more important because it was held during the period when the imperialist crisis has escalated in various revolutionary areas in the Arab world and Africa and that is an issue which requires the reinforcement of the unity of liberation movements in the Arab world and Africa to resist the conspiratorial plots and continue the struggle. At the conclusion of its editorial, the paper affirmed the good results of this meeting and stated that it will serve the just causes for which the Arab and African people are struggling. [Summary] [GF200720 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 82]

CSO: 4400/95

DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS FAHD AIR BASE, COMMENTS ON REAGAN PLAN, CONSCRIPTION

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 9 Sep 82 p 13

[Article by Yahya Sultan: "During Visit to Fahd Air Force Base in al-Ta'if, Prince Sultan Says: Israel's Rejection of Reagan Plan Is Israeli Maneuver; We Hope Compulsory Conscription Decree Will Be Issued Shortly; His Highness Inspects F5 and F15 Fighter Aircraft and Housing Units"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, arrived at the airport of Prince Fahd Air Force Base two mornings ago. He was received by Salih al-Salim, the governor of al-Ta'if; Lt Gen Muhammad Sabri, air force commander; Maj Gen 'Abdallah ibn Zayn, commander of al-Ta'if military district; Air Force Brig Gen Ahmad Ibrahim Buhayri, commander of King Fahd Air Base; and a number of armed forces officers.

His highness rode an open military car, accompanied by Air Force Brig Gen Ahmad al-Buhayri, to inspect the F5 and F15 fighter aircraft, vertical takeoff [aircraft], radar and the various workshops. His highness heard a full explanation of the various equipment and instruments of the planes.

His highness also visited the Shams al-Salam project where he inaugurated the premises of the fifth squadron of the F15 aircraft and familiarized himself with the aircraft's instruments and equipment. His highness also inspected the F15 fighter aircraft flight simulator, the central electronics building at the base, the automatic pilot apparatus and the apparatus for testing the aircraft equipment. He also visited the building for technical training on the F15, the communications building and the security building, "which are still under construction."

His highness, accompanied by the governor of al-Ta'if, made an inspection tour of the housing area of the base's medical services and the housing area for Shams al-Salam project. This project includes housing units for the base officers. His highness also inaugurated the closed sports hall. Staff Brig Gen Ahmad al-Buhayri delivered an address welcoming his highness on behalf of the base.

In an address to his sons, the members of King Fahd Air Base in al-Ta'if, His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said:

"In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate, and prayers and peace be upon the great messenger, our prophet Muhammad, and upon his kinsmen and his companions, I convey to you a greeting of Islam in the name of the supreme commander of the armed forces, of his exalted crown prince and of their wise government. Colleagues, we meet in this eminent place with brothers who have their place in the heart and who have the place of eminence in front of the Arab and Islamic armed forces. In this base that is dear to our hearts, you work day and night to serve the sanctities, to defend Islam and Arabism and to restore the usurped right in the beloved Palestine and in various other Arab territories from the tyrannical Zionist enemy. Time is counted against each of us regarding what he does openly and secretly to serve God, may he be praised, and to train on the modern weapons with which the state has supplied us--weapons that are in trustworthy hands that do whatever they have to do to serve the faith, the king and the homeland. Therefore, you shoulder an immense responsibility. You face a merciless history that records every mistake and every right step. Dear colleague officers and troops of this base, I repeat again that the work you are carrying out in this district, as in all military districts, be it on land, at sea or in the air, is a holy jihad of which you embody the soul. You are in the place of honor and eminence for your Arab nation."

After this address, his highness departed the hall, accompanied by the high-ranking officers, led by the governor of al-Ta'if, and proceeded to open the main dining hall at the base where he had his lunch. His highness then left the base and was seen off by Shaykh Salih al-Salim, the governor of al-Ta'if; Lt Gen Muhammad Sabri, the air forces commander; Maj Gen 'Abdallah Zayn al-Harbi, the commander of al-Ta'if military district; and Staff Air Force Maj Gen Ahmad Ibrahim al-Buhayri, Commander of King Fahd Air Base.

Press Conference

During his visit to the base, his highness held a press conference in which he answered journalists' questions. Answering a question on his highness' impressions of the accomplishments he witnessed during his tour, his highness said: We have, God be thanked, reached this advanced stage, which indicates the aspirations of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership and guidance of His Redeemed Majesty King Fahd. What you have all seen is something that calls for thanks to God, may He be praised, Who has enabled the state to prepare for what we have seen in our armed forces. I thank those working in the armed forces, be they military men or civilians, for what they have performed. We are full of trust in God, may He be praised, that this outstanding phenomenon in all our activities and projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue.

Regarding U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan and his highness' impressions of this speech calling for establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank,

his highness said that reaction now rests with the Fez summit. All we hope for is that the Arab kings and presidents, their men and their aides will emerge with a resolution that serves our Arab and Islamic causes. As for my personal opinion of the plan, I say that for the first time ever I hear some positive points. We must not believe that they are the place in which our Arab demands and rights rest. But it is a starting point that we must take into careful consideration while emphasizing to ourselves that this plan has come only as a result of the Arab nation's status, its role in the world economy and its geographic position. Therefore, whenever the Arabs meet and act in solidarity, we will, with God's might, hear what is better than this [plan]. As for doing away with sending armed forces personnel on scholarships abroad, his highness said: The armed forces send nobody on scholarships now. I would like to stress now that scholarships used by the armed forces are for advanced and sophisticated courses for officers and technicians who have worked in the kingdom for no less than 5 or 6 years. As for the new weapons, his highness said that a course of only 6 months or a year is given for them. As for the Saudi youth in the armed forces, they are trained in the kingdom. Regarding Israel's rejection of Ronald Reagan's plan, His Highness Prince Sultan, second deputy prime minister, minister of aviation and inspector general, said in comment: I believe that this rejection is a maneuver reflecting Begin's well-known approach. But we must consider another aspect of the Zionists, or the Israelis, who call for consideration in rejecting this plan; I believe that rejection is fully expected and likely because Israel is accustomed to refusing to bend. The Arab world must take and demand so that we can block the path in the face of Israel, and of others, to stop it from following a course of taking, demanding and refusing. We should act at the same level because we have more right than Israel, which has attacked and usurped Arab land. Touching on the Iraq-Iran war, his highness said: All our hopes and pleas are that God will bless the two Islamic countries with understanding to settle the conflict peacefully and not by war. On the establishment of military towns, his highness said: We are in a military town in al-Ta'if, which is in fact a base with housing. This is why we call it a complete military town. Regarding compulsory conscription, His Highness Prince Sultan said: The state has entrusted the armed forces to dot the i's and cross the t's. Our hope in God is that this decree will be issued shortly. On transforming the Maintenance Corps School in al-Ta'if into an institute similar to the Air Defense Institute in Jiddah, his highness said that the school merits this. The matter is left to the Armed Forces General Staff to study.

8494

CSO: 4404/702

ARAB, U.S. PEACE PROPOSALS FOR MIDDLE EAST COMPARED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 718, 7-12 Sep 82 pp 26-28

[Article by 'Amir al-Jabiri: "Fez: Who Will Implement Final Communique?"]

[Text] Arab and international talk is still strongly focused on the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the 12th Arab summit held in the city of Fez, in the Kingdom of Morocco, last week. Regardless of how divergent the reactions, comments and interpretations concerning the results produced by the latest Arab summit, the undisputed fact is that the Arab leaders who participated in the summit achieved more than one surprise that has restored to the Arabs their real weight and their actual worth on the political map.

The first and most significant of the surprises was the uninterrupted continuation of the meetings and sessions throughout 4 days. This is something that never happened at previous Arab summits and something that has given all political circles the strong impression that the Arabs decided this time to attain what should have been attained long ago.

Another surprise is the fact that the final communique issued by the summit was phrased in few, but extremely careful and significant, sentences actually reflecting a profound Arab transformation in thinking, analysis and view of affairs and in dealing with these affairs in a spirit of objectivity, rationality, balance and diplomatic composure.

The truth is that those who are aware of the Arab situation and of the point that affairs have reached since the series of events coming on the heels of the first round of the Fez summit--events beginning with the Israeli decision to annex the Golan, the war launched against the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon and the intensifying splits in the Arab ranks--the truth is that these people never expected the second round in Fez to emerge with shaky results whose practical outcome would be signals giving Israel the green light to proceed toward further intransigence at the expense of the Arab nation's existence and fate and of the Palestinian people's right to their soil and homeland.

However, even those most optimistic about the convocation of the second Fez round did not go as far as the results have gone. This is why a prominent Arab League official said when interviewed by AL-YAMAMAH: The first feeling following the summit's success is the feeling of satisfaction and reassurance over the future of Arab relations and, consequently, future common Arab action.

He added that the climate prevailing in the conference created a new Arab thrust characterized by seriousness and eagerness not to repeat the mistakes of the past and to keep the unity of the Arab line far from the fabricated Arab rancor and differences.

Reaching agreement on a unified Arab peace plan, on a clear and frank declaration vis-a-vis developments in the Gulf war, on perceiving the defense of any Arab territory exposed to invasion a joint responsibility and a common duty on warning Ethiopia to stop its operations in and to withdraw its forces from Somalia--reaching this collective stage in decision and in direction is a development whose dimensions, significance and meaning permit us to describe it as a great move occurring for the first time in this manner on the Arab political scene.

As for the efforts exerted by some Arab leaders, especially by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and King Hussan II of Morocco, the chairman of the Fez summit, to achieve more than one Arab reconciliation, particularly between Syrian President Hafiz al-Assad on the one hand and the president of Iraq, the king of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat on the other hand--these efforts that achieved initial results embodied in the frank discussions that took place between these leaders can be considered the major guarantee for implementing the summit resolutions at all levels.

Unless all the blemishes distorting and destroying the climate of relations among such states as Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO and obstructing the possibilities of establishing genuine cooperation among these four parties--each of which is complementary to the other, especially at the military level, in which coordination constitutes an important and weighty pressure factor insofar as political decisions and diplomatic movement are concerned--unless all these blemishes are eliminated, the summit resolutions, adopted after collective discussions and debates, can in no way be implemented.

There is absolutely no doubt that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's trip to Fez to take part in the Arab summit despite the severe war conditions under which his country has been living for more than 2 years and which the other side, Iran, is determined to continue indicates clearly that the Iraqi president wants and seeks reconciliation with Syria.

This doesn't mean that the Syrian media's denial of the existence of an inclination for reconciliation with Iraq and others and their insinuation that the meeting that took place between Hafiz al-Assad, Saddam Husayn, the Jordanian monarch and Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of His Majesty King Hassan II and His Majesty King Fahd was just a matter of protocol--this denial does not mean that Syria does not actually want reconciliation with these Arab sides.

Perhaps Syria needs more time so that a deeper understanding can be achieved for solving its disputes with all in a better manner and on firmer grounds.

We believe that the Saudi and Moroccan monarchs have been aware of this point and agreed to hold numerous contacts to prepare for a private meeting between the Iraqi and Syrian presidents, provided that it take place in Riyadh under

the patronage of King Fahd and be followed by similar meetings if it turns out to be impossible to hold a collective meeting among the four sides.

It can be said without difficulty that regardless of how complex and vague the Arab differences are at times, these differences are ultimately simple issues that are easy to overcome and solve with a little wisdom, objectivity and sincerity.

Therefore, the problem facing the Arabs continues to be "Israel" and with Israel.

The Fez Arab summit has approved the peace plan drawn up and presented by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz following the introduction of slight modifications to provisions 4 and 7 of the 8-point plan.

In the final analysis, this approval means that the Arabs are now facing a major diplomatic battle, which they have to wage to gain world support for the Arab peace plan, especially since Israel rejected it quickly and was followed by the United States, whereas a varying degree of ambiguity has continued to characterize the position of the major powers who are members of the UN Security Council, even though this vagueness represents a sort of waiting for more information, assessment and reactions.

Generally, our past knowledge of the positions of the major powers indicates that the PRC and the Soviet Union will be more supportive of the Arab peace plan, whereas it is likely that Britain and France will welcome the plan without going so far as to support it.

Thus, the task of the Arab diplomatic movement will not be easy or simple, especially since the U.S. President has recently taken another initiative, which is no different in content from the Camp David accords. To put it more precisely, this initiative interprets these accords correctly and, in the long run, refutes the Israeli interpretation of the accords.

Israel is prevaricating in its interpretation of Camp David just as it prevaricated in its interpretation of resolution 242 by insisting that self-rule applies only to the West Bank and Gaza Strip population but not to the land, whereas in fact Camp David binds together the people and the land, exactly as Reagan's recent initiative does.

Even though the U.S. President has reassured Israel in his initiative that there will be no independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, considering that he believes this to be Israel's deep-rooted problem, Israel has rejected his initiative for a single reason, namely, that the initiative calls on Israel to evacuate the Bank and the Strip and hand them over to their native population, which is to tie itself to Jordan.

There is a very weak point in the U.S. initiative. Even though it calls for freezing Israel's settlement activity in the Bank and the Strip, it disregards the issue of the existing settlements, which, according to available information, have reached 100, with 25,000 Israeli inhabitants. Israel plans to bring the number up to 100,000 settlers by the end of this century. Moreover,

the initiative has ignored the fate of the Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel annexed by force.

In any case, we can now say that a new phase of common Arab action has started, that the second round in Fez has defined and crystallized the features, climate and general atmosphere of this phase and that the coming Arab diplomatic steps will chart the precise and practical details pertaining to the nature, goals and objectives of the phase, and even to its strength and ability to influence, polarize and achieve success in imposing the Arab strategic concept produced by the Fez summit and emanating from a definite desire for a just and lasting peace.

The time when we lacked a general strategy for movement on the international stage has gone because we now have a position characterized by clarity and moderation. Also gone is the time when we greatly perplexed our friends and gave our enemies vast opportunity to mislead and prevaricate at the expense of our just causes and our lost rights. At times, they portrayed us as rapacious wolves that want to tear apart the good, gentle and peaceful lamb, "Israel."

At other times, they say that we are a backward nation living in the desert with the character of desert people and a nation enraged to see the Jewish people transform the desert into green and productive land and plant civilization, prosperity and progress there.

At still other times, they claim that we don't want the State of Israel or its people because it observes Western-style democracy. Most of their [our enemies'] words have been addressed to the West where the select few are possessed by their ambitions and where the majority is dominated by our enemies' propaganda. Our enemies have directed and used this propaganda skillfully and have dominated the media in the West itself.

Zionism has exploited everything to incite and direct the forces in the West against us. They know that the West's ruling authorities owe their existence to the man in the street. This is why they [Zionists] have sought to mislead him, so as to control through this man the governments and to make them their captive. They have achieved their biggest success in the United States through the well-known Zionist lobby.

Israel has nothing left that it has not used against us--no irresponsible word, no unclear position, no resounding speech made by this or that leader. It has even put our friends, who have been increasing anyway, in an unenviable position because they find it difficult to defend us as a result of the vagueness of our position, which has often been reflected in an exhortatory speech to an emotionally charged crowd.

The picture is changed now that we have paid the price dearly and the confrontationists among us have become certain that continued "radicalism" may devour whatever rights are left and may lead to further aimlessness, defeats and setbacks.

Since the success achieved by the second round of the Fez summit, we have moved from defense to offense by displaying our readiness and our desire for

peace through a wise, moderate and balanced action program that takes into consideration all of the objective political, military and geographic factors involved in our conflict with Israel.

What is important to us in this phase is to secure the Arab rights, especially the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and to establish their independent state. The question of throwing Israel into the sea no longer preoccupies us. What is sought is a Palestinian state that includes the displaced Palestinian people, provided that this state, like others, gets the international guarantees that enable it to live in peace.

[Box on page 26]

King Fahd's Peace Plan

1. Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.
2. Dismantlement of settlements built by Israel in Arab territories after 1967.
3. Guaranteed freedom of worship and of religious rites of all religions in the holy places.
4. Reaffirmation of the Palestinian people's right and compensation to whoever does not wish to return (on 2 November 1981, King Fahd asserted that the Palestinian figure is the basic figure, that there can be no peace without the Palestinian people and that there can be no Palestinian state without the PLO).
5. The West Bank and Gaza Strip to be under UN supervision for an interim period not exceeding several months.
6. Establishment of the independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.
7. Reaffirmation of the right of the area's states to live in peace.

Peace Plan Approved by Summit

1. Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.
2. Dismantlement of settlements built by Israel in Arab lands after 1967.
3. Guaranteed freedom of worship and of religious rites of all religions in the holy places.
4. Reaffirmation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to exercise their firm and inalienable national rights under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and compensation for whoever does not wish to return [to Palestine].
5. The West Bank and Gaza Strip to be under UN supervision for an interim period not exceeding several months.
6. Establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.
7. The UN Security Council to establish peace guarantees for all states in the area, including the independent Palestinian state.

[continued]

8. The United Nations or a number of its member states to guarantee the implementation of these principles.

8. The UN Security Council to guarantee the implementation of these principles.

Main Points in Reagan's Peace Plan [Box on page 27]

1. No independent Palestinian state in the West Bank of the Jordan River and in Gaza Strip.
 2. Israel has no right to annex the occupied territories.
 3. Self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza with linkage to Jordan.
 4. An immediate freeze on new Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.
 5. Nonpartition of Jerusalem, provided that the city's future is determined through negotiations.
 6. A strong U.S. commitment to protect Israel's security.
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U.S. Interpretation and Israeli Interpretation of Camp David Accords [Box on page 28]

It has become evident from the Israeli reaction to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative that there have been from the first moment U.S.-Israeli differences in interpreting the initiative, which the U.S. President has asserted comes within the Camp David framework. These differences have become obvious through Israel's declaration of its rejection of the U.S. initiative.

Reagan's initiative provides for the Palestinian population of East Jerusalem to take part in electing the self-rule government in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel has declared that Jerusalem is not included in the Camp David accords and that such participation in the elections constitutes the repartition of the city.

The fact is that there are mutual U.S.-Egyptian letters that do not recognize Israel's jurisdiction over all of Jerusalem. The United States and Egypt are two parties to the accords. Therefore, Israel has no right to control over all of Jerusalem.

Reagan's initiative calls for a genuine freeze on the settlements. The former U.S. President had obtained a promise from Begin to freeze the construction of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and had been waiting for Begin to present the promise in writing. But only 1 week after making the promise, Begin declared that he had not made the promise. Begin then sent a letter to Carter undertaking not to build new settlements for a period of 3 months. Consequently, Carter declared that any new settlement would be illegal.

As for self-rule, Reagan's initiative provides for giving the Palestinian population true jurisdiction over themselves and over their land and its resources.

The Israelis say that self-rule applies to the population but not to the land. This issue was left undecided until the end of the interim period, with provisions to determine it in the negotiations, taking into consideration the Israeli security requirements. Throughout the self-rule negotiations, Israel raised the question of security in the face of the negotiators.

The issue of linkage with Jordan: Reagan has called for linking the self-ruled Palestinian territories with Jordan. Israel has protested that the Camp David accords stipulate that Jordan be invited to negotiate within the framework of the accords.

Sovereignty issue: Reagan's initiative excludes Israeli sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank and Gaza. Israel claims that this sovereignty is guaranteed to it by the accords whereas the Camp David accords stipulate that the fate of these territories be decided in accordance with Security Council resolution 242, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories and which prohibits the seizure of territory by force.

8494

CSO: 4404/6

EXTENT OF FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 295, 16 Oct 82 p 26

[Article: Future Saudi Role in Lebanon: Two Main Roles Will Extricate Lebanon Once and for All from Its Crisis: The Saudi Role of Rebuilding Lebanon and the American Role of Pressuring Israel to Withdraw! Rebuilding What Was Destroyed by the Israelis, the Arabs and the Lebanese!]

[Text] Saudi Arabia delayed the return of its ambassador to Lebanon, Lt Gen 'Ali al-Sha'ir, until after the presidential election and then until after Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was instructed to form the new government.

This position meant one thing--Saudi leaders wanted very much to avoid being dragged into any Lebanese domestic concern, believing that if they sent their ambassador before the presidential election, it would be said that he came because of the election and that Saudi Arabia had planned to bring about a Muslim consensus on the presidential election. If they had sent him before the government was formed, it would be said that he had come to Beirut to apply pressure to have a Muslim leader form the government.

Saudi Arabia wanted very strongly to keep these matters in mind for two main reasons:

The first is that before and since the events began in Lebanon, the Kingdom has urged non-interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, instead letting the Lebanese solve their domestic problems themselves and manage their own affairs.

The second is that the Kingdom had begun to prepare itself to play a role in helping rebuild Lebanon and provide the assistance necessary to revive all its economic, financial and construction sectors. The Kingdom does not want its role to be one of involvement in Lebanese internal affairs.

President Amin Jumayyil said that he was very pleased when he read the letter from King Fahd, given to him by Ambassador 'Ali al-Sha'ir last week, because of the salient points which the letter focused on. He emphasized Saudi Arabia's unqualified willingness to provide all the assistance Lebanon needs at this stage.

Informed sources have revealed important aspects of King Fahd's letter to President Jumayyil, saying that at the beginning, the Saudi king referred to a consensus in the chamber of deputies on the election of President Jumayyil, since this consensus made and will make Saudi Arabia in particular and the Arab world in general stand more firmly with Lebanon and give unlimited assistance and support to revive and rebuild Lebanon.

Without considering its involvement in Lebanon's internal affairs, the Saudi monarch emphasized the situation of the Muslims in Lebanon and the necessity of protecting them and their rights as a basis for preserving Lebanon's unity and the formula for coexistence among its people.

King Fahd's letter referred to the abilities and strengths that President Jumayyil can use to carry out the immense, difficult tasks ahead of him, alluding to Lebanon's political leaders with whom he can cooperate and on whom he can rely, particularly former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, not only because he is a prominent Muslim leader, but also because he is an important Arab figure internationally respected.

President Jumayyil sent a letter of reply to the Saudi monarch, which was delivered by Ambassador al-Sha'ir, in which he stressed that Lebanon's destiny is one and the same for Muslims and Christians and that the formula for Muslim-Christian coexistence must be respected if Lebanon is to be rebuilt and to survive.

President Jumayyil's reply was not confined to emphasizing his respect for the Muslims in Lebanon and their rights and nationalistic needs and the necessity of broadening the bases for cooperation and participation. He also apprised the Saudi monarch of all aspects of the Lebanese situation and what is required to deal with this situation. He also informed him of the Lebanese-U.S. contacts to secure a total Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory and to end the presence of all other non-Lebanese armed forces.

The impression given by these letters exchanged by the Saudi monarch and the Lebanese president was that the letters went beyond the customary idea of letters exchanged by national leaders to something much more important and far reaching because of the great significance they have at this stage, constituting a sort of new charter in which the Maronite Christian Lebanese president pledged to continue to adhere to the formula for Muslim-Christian coexistence in Lebanon based on participation and, consequently, that he would respect the rights of the Muslims and their special circumstances in exchange for a guarantee from the Arabs, which this time came from Saudi Arabia, that they would support and respect Lebanon's national rights and sovereignty over its land and independence and would consider the issue of helping to revive and rebuild Lebanon an Arab responsibility rather than one of any other foreign party, including the United States.

Certain axioms have become widely accepted--that the new role through which Saudi Arabia views the Lebanese situation has given and will continue to give Saudi Arabia many different obligations. These obligations exceed the unqualified willingness which Saudi Arabia has expressed and has begun working to

translate into a wider, more comprehensive Arab participation to help rebuild Lebanon, rebuilt what the war destroyed and strengthen its economy. They even go beyond this to other political obligations to free Lebanon from occupation, especially the current Israeli occupation, by Saudi Arabia's using all its weight on the international level, especially with the United States, to perpetuate the current trend, which is the basis on which the American administration will promise to exert the utmost pressure to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without any prior conditions affecting Lebanon's identity domestically and within the Arab world, especially rejecting the linking of withdrawal to any peace treaty or security agreements between Lebanon and Israel.

Therefore, one of the most important things to come out of the talks between Lebanese officials and political leaders and Saudi Ambassador Lt Gen 'Ali al-Sha'ir was that new Saudi-American contacts have begun in order to coordinate cooperation and their positions in order to continue the movement to save Lebanon and make it a country able to progress, stand on its own, protect its independence and territorial integrity and extend its national sovereignty throughout its territory. Some of the highest official circles in Beirut and a number of prominent leaders are discussing important information about the joint action plan for Lebanon agreed upon between Washington and Riyadh.

One thing that has increased Lebanese confidence is that the American movement, backed by European and other countries, to bring about Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, is an inseparable part of the total plan, which also addresses Arab and international assistance to rebuild Lebanon and strengthen its economy. This is what makes the magnitude of the Saudi role as important as that of the American, especially since it was confirmed that the Kingdom's role will be the primary, motivating role to bring about agreement on a type of "Marshall Plan" to rebuild Lebanon, modernize its institutions, strengthen its nationalist sectors and finance the cost of carrying out this plan.

After Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon 'Ali al-Sha'ir disclosed the contacts in progress to establish an Arab-international fund to finance the reconstruction and economic support plan for Lebanon, the American capital revealed that the total monetary aid to be deposited in the fund will amount to \$10 billion. This was announced last week by the U.S. State Department spokesman, who said that Saudi Arabia and the United States would be the largest backers of the fund and also revealed the size of the European participation and assistance.

Confirming that the link is unbreakable between the American plan to bring about Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of this fund was the fact that Ambassador 'Ali al-Sha'ir's talks in this regard in the Lebanese capital stressed the connection between these two matters; that is, Ambassador al-Sha'ir made it clear to everyone that the subject of security and its continuation is the basis on which assistance will be given and building and reconstruction will begin.

9882

CSO: 4404/84

SAUDI CREDIT FOR MEXICO DESIGNED TO HOLD LINE ON OIL PRICES

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 10 Oct 82 Econo-Political Supplement p 1

[Article by (Sonia Na'amoto): "Government Intervention Affects Financial Conditions in Mexico; Kingdom Safeguards Stability of Oil Prices by Offering Financial Loans to Mexico"]

[Excerpts] Exclusive Tokyo Dispatch--It is well known that the demand for crude oil is going through a phase of constant decline due to the inflation that has dominated the world economy for some time. This undoubtedly has its negative impact on the countries that have entered into oil production recently, led by Mexico, which is suffering from a severe economic stagnation.

The fact is that Mexico, which is the second largest oil producer, is currently going through a phase of financial instability as a result of undertaking vast investments with monies received from abroad. This deteriorating condition of the Mexican treasury has motivated Mexico to seek urgent financial assistance from the United States, Japan and Saudi Arabia. The Mexican press has reported that Mexico has succeeded in obtaining urgent financial credit for \$12 billion from the Saudi Government. This is in addition to the steps being taken by the United States and Japan to help rescue Mexico from the current economic crisis by providing it with additional financial aid.

It is worth noting that Mexico's average oil production totaled 2 million barrels daily in 1980 and 2.5 million barrels in 1981, thus allowing Mexico to hold the same position as Venezuela insofar as oil production is concerned.

On the other hand, the Mexican press has reported that Saudi Arabia will offer Mexico urgent financial credit of \$12 billion. These reports say that this step on the part of Saudi Arabia stems from the kingdom's eagerness not to have Mexico compelled to sell its crude oil at prices below world prices to overcome its financial crisis. Should Mexico do so, the world crude oil market would fall into confusion and chaos.

The Saudi papers add that Saudi Arabia is seeking to freeze crude oil prices at \$34 per barrel of light Arab crude.

As for Japanese energy officials, they would welcome a drop in the oil price should Mexico proceed to sell large quantities of its oil below market prices. But at the same time, these officials are wary that the prices will rise again because the drop in Mexican oil prices would not be permanent but rather a temporary condition.

As for the Japanese economy, stable oil prices are extremely important. Consequently, Japan feels grateful to Saudi Arabia for offering the reported aid to Mexico at this time.

8494

CSO: 4404/43

EXPANSION OF EASTERN PROVINCE WATER PROJECTS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 22 Aug 82 p 4

[Interview with Mr 'Abdallah al-Babtayn, director general of the Water and Sewage Department in the Eastern Province, by Turki al-'Ayyar: "Linking the Cities and Villages of the Eastern Province to a Unified Water and Sewage System"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Completion of the project of bringing water and sewage services to various areas of al-Dammam required an implementation period of 4 years and cost 1.2 billion riyals.

Water is a basic element of the life of mankind, and it is involved in all of the components of life. Man uses water for drinking, in agriculture, in industry, in construction, and in almost all of the various activities of life. It is for this reason that one of mankind's primary concerns is to assure himself of the availability of a supply of water and to look for water--wherever its source may be. Our government has spared no efforts to provide [its citizens] with water, the artery of life, through all possible means and in all areas of the country. In doing so, the government has exploited the water resources of all areas of the country, including [regular] wells, artesian wells, ground water, springs, rainwater, and even seawater after having it desalinized by means of desalinization enterprises and then treated so that it can become fit for human consumption. In fact, the government has also had areas lacking in water receive water from areas rich in water. Previously the sectors responsible for supplying water consisted of more than one government body, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, and the municipalities. However, in view of the expansion which the country has undergone and which is still going on, and the increasing demand for water, it was necessary to unify the government bodies responsible for providing a water supply, putting in water systems, building water storage tanks, transporting water from the sources of water to the areas in need of water, and supervising all of these operations. The result was the establishment of water departments in all of the areas and provinces of Saudi Arabia, and it is their job to play this important and necessary role and to deal with the expansion taking place and the increasing demand for water.

The Water and Sewage Department in the Eastern Province, like all the other water departments in Saudi Arabia, is working hard to supply each city, village, and household with good drinking water. The projects and studies engaged in by the department reaffirm this objective and put into practice the policies resulting from the government's concern with this important aspect of life. The Water Department is expanding water systems, constructing water storage tanks, and putting in a sewage system everywhere in the Eastern Province. It is attempting, as much as possible, to utilize [treated] sewage water in agriculture instead of merely dumping it in the Gulf and thus polluting it. The necessary studies have been prepared and the necessary sums of money have been made available to set up purification plants which would be operated by means of automation. In order that the department's services reach all the villages and cities of the Eastern Province, it has undertaken to establish branches in some areas such as al-Ahsa' [al-Hasa'], Buqayq [Abqayq], Sayhat, al-Qatif, Rahimah, and al-Khubar. Also, new branches will be set up in al-Khafji and other areas in order that the Water Department carry out its services as it should and in accordance with its authority. One of the most important projects currently being studied by the department is that of covering all the areas of the province with a unified water system. This water system would also be utilized by the residential areas which, in the future, would be built up between the cities.

Now we will hear what Mr 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Babtayn, director general of the Water and Sewage Department in the Eastern Province, has to say. Here is what he said about all of these matters and the department's projects: "We are undertaking the tasks of operation, maintenance, and bringing services to all of the cities in the Eastern Province in accordance with the authority of the Water Department, which differs from the authority of the other government bodies. What I mean is that the water departments have expanded authority by virtue of the nature of their work and the important and necessary services which they provide. The process of carrying out the department's tasks does not determine the authority only in accordance with the benefit and its utilization in the sound and appropriate way in which it performs its effective role in serving our citizens. By 'process of implementation' I do not mean following routine and bureaucratic procedures which might depend on the person who exercises this authority and which might not achieve its objective of serving our citizens themselves. The services which we provide to our citizens are of a distinctive type which is different from that of the services of the other government bodies. They involve providing fast service, a high degree of efficiency, and meeting the needs of our citizens--under all circumstances and at all times of the day and night. If there is a rupture in some water pipe, sewage pipe, water hook-up to a residence or other installation, etc., then the step taken needs to be fast and effective. As for further discussion of the explanation or details of the measures taken, I have the following to say. I do not approve of the process of merely acting on the basis of one's first glance at a matter when it involves the application of the measures, or laws, or matters when a responsible official, with his experience and capability, is able to formulate these measures in order to perform the service which he was

basically appointed for and provide this service, as much as possible, to our citizens. There are, of course, measures which are carried out by those responsible for them. But as I have said, and in accordance with the policy of the government of the king and his crown prince concerning the speed with which decisions are made, the first consideration is that of serving our citizens properly, no matter how much circumstances require that services be rapidly provided."

New Branches of the Department

Concerning the areas which have utilized the department's services, and the extent of its responsibilities, Mr al-Babtayn had the following to say: "The areas which have been utilizing the services of the [Department of] Water and Sewage in the Eastern Province are al-Dammam, Al-Khubar, the areas between these two cities, Buqayq, all of al-Ahsa', Sayhat, al-Qatif, Rahimah, and al-Khafji. Of course, each city has a water and sewage office which is subordinate to the headquarters office of the department, and each branch has been given the authority which enables the chief of the branch to perform his job as he should. There are some new branches which will be opening up in the near future. They are at Safwa and al-Jubayl. Also, some villages will be incorporated into the al-Ahsa' and al-Qatif areas as far as sewage and water service is concerned. The responsibilities of the department extend from the border with Kuwait in the north to the border with Qatar in the south, and in an area approximately 700 kilometers long from north to south. The headquarters is in the city of al-Dammam. It is the job of the branches to provide water and sewage service, bring water and sewage service to new areas, collection of fees, and the supervision of projects under the authority of these branches." 1.2 Billion Riyals for the al-Dammam Water Project

Concerning the services which have been provided to these areas so far by the department, the director general of the Water and Sewage Department in the Eastern Province said: "If we begin, for example, with al-Dammam by virtue of the fact that it is the capital city of the Eastern Province, we will notice that the city of al-Dammam is undergoing tremendous expansion. I do not want to talk in detail about the projects. However, I would like to briefly state what they are. For example, we have a project whose value is 922 million riyals--to which about 200 million riyals were added, such that the value of the project became 1.1 billion riyals--for bringing water and sewage service to various areas of al-Dammam. These areas extend from north of King 'Abd al-'Aziz Street to Zone 145 in the south, and from the Central Hospital or al-Mazari' [farms] Street in the west to the railroad in the east. This embraces a number of areas. It is estimated that this project will include hooking up water and sewage service to about 6,700 residences and other installations. The project was scheduled to be completed in 4 years. It began in 1398 A.H. [1978], and now the project is at the completion stage. The project for providing new water and sewage service to residences has actually already begun, and the 97-million-riyal contract for this project has been awarded to a company which specializes in this field. This means a grand total of about 1.2 billion riyals for just this one project.

This project includes water and sewage lines as well as plants for treatment [of sewage] and water purification. It should be noted that the sewage treatment plants are operated on the basis of automation. This is a serious attempt to obtain good water to be utilized for agricultural purposes and to prevent the water of the Gulf from being polluted by sewage water."

Replacing the Old Systems

"The city of al-Dammam also has a project for replacing old sewage systems. As all of our citizens in al-Dammam know, this project is renewed every year. For several reasons the department has prepared a plan to replace all of the lines which were put in previously. These reasons include the fact that the lines were not put in properly, the materials used [were not good enough], and the fact that the population density has greatly increased. Furthermore, the department wishes to standardize the types of materials used and has chosen some of the best materials which will be used [for the new sewage lines] such as glazed ceramic clay and flexible iron. The cost of this project will be in the range of 50 million riyals per year."

"In addition to this, in the city of al-Dammam there are projects involving water systems such as those for the University Personnel [al-jami'iyin] Zone, Zones 37, 76, 78, 77, 91, and 71, and the Talal and al-Mazru'iyah Zone. In all of these areas there are projects for [installing] water systems and for constructing water storage tanks."

Linking the Cities of the Province to a Unified System

"There are also some projects which consist of studies. For example, there is the study dealing with the capital city of al-Dammam, al-Khubar, and Dhahran. This project also involves linking the areas between al-Dammam, al-Khubar, and Dhahran. Initial studies concerning this project have actually been completed, and now the final studies are being done. Contracts for making the final studies have been awarded to both Saudi and foreign consultant offices which specialize in this field. The purpose of this project is to link al-Dammam, al-Khubar, and Dhahran to a single water and sewage system, and the system will be on a very large scale. Any area between al-Dammam, al-Khubar, and Dhahran which might be developed in the future would be able to be connected to this huge water and sewage system project. And, as I have already mentioned, the study concerning the project is being done right now, and, God willing, within the next few months it will be completed and will be delivered to us."

"In addition to this, for the city of al-Dammam there is a project for making final studies concerning all of the areas where there are residences or new areas in the al-Dammam area. During the next 3 months these studies will be delivered to us. During this year the new areas will be slated for receiving water and sewage service, for having the systems hooked up to residences, and for receiving maintenance. These new areas include: the al-Mazru'iyah Area

which, as the people of al-Dammam know, is one of the largest existing areas now and is located east of al-Dammam; the area north of Talal, which is the area north of King 'Abd al-'Aziz Street; the (Sakiku) Area and the Electricity Area; Area 37, and Areas 78 and 77 which are next to it; and the area south of Prince Sa'd Street in the Ibn Khaldun Area and south of [the Ibn Khaldun] Area. This final study will be submitted during the next 2 months, and bids will be invited for implementing [the project which will result from the study]."

Integrated Project

"At this point I should also not fail to mention one of the largest projects in the western area of al-Dammam which is called the al-Jiluwiyyah Area and in Zones 77, 78, 76, and 162. The contract for this area's project has already actually been awarded, and the value of the contract is 513 million riyals. The contract was awarded by the Ministerial Committee. The studies in connection with this project were prepared by the department in cooperation with an engineering firm which specializes in this field. The project is now in its initial stage. We expect, God willing, that this project will put an end to the problem which the people of al-Dammam are suffering from--the problem of overflow of ground water. The fact is that the situation in al-Dammam right now is very bad as far as this problem is concerned. We believe that this project, God willing, when it is finished, will radically solve this problem. The project involves sewage treatment and water purification plants, water and sewage lines, bringing [water and sewage service] to residences, and collection of rainwater. The important thing is that this project is considered to be the first one which is emerging in an integrated form and includes everything--water, sewage, rainwater, and bringing [water and sewage service] to residences. As I have mentioned, it includes the areas from King Khalid Street in the north to Ra's Tannurah Street in the west to the hospital in the east and to Ibn Khaldun Street in the south. This project is for the city of al-Dammam. In addition to this, there is a series of studies which I do not want to go into and which also concern making studies dealing with water, sewage, and planting trees at the entrances to the city of al-Dammam."

Projects for al-Khubar

Concerning the projects which al-Khubar will have, he said: "The government is also providing al-Khubar with some fabulous projects. I believe that, during the next 3 years, the city of al-Khubar will become the only city in Saudi Arabia which will have all water and sewage services. We believe this because we, as a department, have prepared all of the initial and final water and sewage studies [for al-Khubar]. For example, right now we are about to get a water and sewage project worth 750 million riyals. The project includes the construction of new sewage plants and purification plants, as is being done in al-Dammam, water purification plants, water and sewage systems, and the provision of new water and sewage service to residences. When this is added, the cost will be 850 million riyals. The project also includes

transporting sewage water from the Aramco area and the University of Petroleum and Minerals to the sewage treatment units instead of allowing the situation to remain as it was before.

This measure is being taken on the basis of an order given by Prince Mit'ib to put an end to the sewage water problem which existed in the Aramco and airport area. The problem was that Aramco was disposing of its sewage to the north of the Aramco area. There were, of course, sewage treatment units. But it was also necessary to get rid of the sewage water which was being poured into uncultivated lands. The contract for the project [designed to deal with this problem] was awarded in 1398 A.H. [1978], and now the project, as such, is over. In addition to this, there is another project which is being implemented right now, and it is the Green Belt and al-Bandariyah project. The project is worth 127 million riyals, it was prepared by the department, and the contract for it was awarded by the Ministerial Committee. The project right now is in the stage of implementation, and the life of the project is 18 months. God willing, the project will be finished by the end of the next 14 months. The project includes bringing water and sewage service to the Green Belt and al-Bandariyah Zones. In addition to this, there is the job of doing final studies for the area south of al-Khubar, the area south of the prison, the Maritime Area, the area in the middle of al-Khubar, and the al-'Aziziyah Entrance Area. There are also projects to make final studies for these areas. These projects have been submitted to the department, and they will be put up for bidding during the next few days." "There are also some final studies which have been completed for the Golden Belt Area. This is one of the largest zones in the city of al-Khubar. God willing, in the near future bidding will also be invited concerning the implementation of the project associated with these studies. The Golden Belt Area is an area which is located north of al-Khubar, and its area is an estimated 2 million [square] meters. The project includes water and sewage service, collection of rain-water, water and sewage treatment and purification plants, and the bringing of water and sewage service to residences. The important thing about the project is that it is an integrated one. I wish to reassure the citizens that there will be only one digging, involving multiple services, in order to lessen the inconvenience to our citizens--even though this inconvenience will take place during this transitional stage. However, God willing, if the planning is sound and if there is coordination between government bodies, there will be fewer such diggings."

Final Studies for the Zones

"In addition to this, as I have mentioned, we are concentrating on making final studies. There are final studies which are being made for all of the new zones in al-Khubar--and this includes the low-income zones, the university personnel zones, and the family [housing] zones in all of the areas of the city of al-Khubar."

"Water and sewage service will arrive in these areas, and the sewage problem will disappear within the next 3 months. The projects concerning bringing

sewage and water service to residences are being implemented, and the sewage overflow which one notices in the city of al-Khubar will cease."

Sewage Systems for 38 Villages

Concerning the projects of the al-Ahsa' area, he said: "This is one of the largest areas [in the Eastern Province] and one of those most in need of water, sewage, and rainwater collection services. A great deal more still needs to be done there. The area is still in need of these services. This is something that I can attest to. And in fact, on the basis of instructions from higher authorities, the department has undertaken various studies. I am concentrating on the fact of these studies because they are one of the most important matters that we have generally wanted to concentrate on in connection with carrying out any projects in the future. For example, let us begin with the project which currently exists in the al-Ahsa' area. The value of the project is estimated at 540 million riyals, and the project involves putting in sewage systems for about 38 villages. It also includes a series of sewage pumps and sewage treatment plants in the northern and southern parts of the al-Ahsa' area, and the project involves bringing sewage and water service to residences. This project began about a year and a half ago, and, God willing, it will be finished during the next 2 years. About a year ago the department was given a branch in al-Ahsa', the branch was inaugurated, and buildings for the department branch were rented in al-Hufuf. The [department] has various units there now, and the various labor forces have been brought in for them. After bidding, the contracts were awarded to several companies which will undertake the jobs of maintenance and operation. God willing, this week--in fact, on 2/11/1402 A.H.--the project will officially begin concerning water maintenance for all of the cities of the al-Ahsa' area and sewage maintenance for all of these cities also."

"Right now I am in Riyadh for the process of awarding the contract for the al-Ahsa' project. This project is now considered to be a new one, and its cost will be an estimated 313 million riyals. Bids concerning the job of supervising the project have already been invited, and the envelopes concerning the project will be opened next week. This project also includes a number of both new and old city areas which have not had sewage services. Likewise, this project involves sewage treatment plants, sewage systems, and bringing [water and sewage] service to residences. In addition to this, during the next 6 months we will be receiving a project involving linking the al-Ahsa' area and its villages to a single water system. The contract for this project has been awarded to a foreign firm which specializes in this field. The project will link the whole al-Ahsa' area to a single water system, and this will make it possible to control water service throughout the cities and villages [of the area], and for all of the municipalities and families [of the area]. The water service will be overseen by a single government body with authority in this realm, and this will be the Department of Water and Sewage. God willing, next year the project will be submitted within the new budget."

"There is also another project dealing with constructing new automated units. The contract for it was awarded after bidding during the month of Ramadan. God willing, during the next 5 months these new automated units will be handed over to us, ready for operation."

"There is also a project for making studies concerning main lines which would link the systems currently in existence in Najran [as published] and concerning constructing new water storage tanks. Next month the studies dealing with making these water storage tanks will be submitted to us. The capacity of one water storage tank will be about 175,000 cubic meters of water. Also, another water storage tank similar to it will be constructed. Right now al-Ahsa' depends on ground water as its sole source of water. What we are still urgently requesting and demanding is that the al-Ahsa' area be supplied with water by means of desalinized water lines, whether this occurs by means of constructing new [desalinization] plants especially for al-Ahsa' or by means of lines which pass through al-Ahsa'."

Studies for the City of al-Hufuf

"In addition to this, there is a study for the city of al-Hufuf, just as in al-Dammam and al-Khubar we did a study for the city. Any study which might originate in the future would be within the framework of [this] initial study and it will not be possible for any body, whether a government body, private group, or consultant firm, to make any study unless it is in accordance with what we want rather than being in accordance with what they want. This is because these are studies which depend on the utilization of materials and soil, [a particular] method of implementation, and coordination. This is what we are always urgently requesting, and I anticipate and assume, God willing, that we will have this as a result of coordination between government offices."

Water and Sewage in al-'Uqayr

"In addition to this there is a study which has been completed in al-'Uqayr, which is one of Saudi Arabia's old seaports. On instructions from the governor of the Eastern Province, we have done the final study dealing with water and sewage for the al-'Uqayr area. The study has been completed, and we are waiting for the funds to be made available for implementation."

New Water Storage Tanks

"Another sewage study has been completed dealing with the other areas currently being built up and where there is residential housing. Bids will be invited concerning [implementation of the project resulting from] the study as soon as the necessary funds are made available for it. It is ready now, and we are merely waiting for the funds to be made available. There is also a project for building various water storage tanks in the two cities of al-Hufuf and al-Mubarraz. There will be six such water storage tanks. The

contract has already been awarded for the operations of clearing and fencing in [the sites], construction, digging new wells, constructing these new water storage tanks to replace the old ones, and linking them to the [water] systems currently in existence." "In addition to this there are other projects currently under study. They include projects, also about to be put up for bidding, which involve replacing the water and sewage systems in the two cities of al-Hufuf and al-Mubarraz as well as in the villages."

"As I already mentioned in the beginning, the department's main interest is that of unifying, under one umbrella, the water and sewage services in all of the cities and villages of the al-Ahsa' area instead of having them be fragmented and in the hands of numerous [government] bodies. My expectations concerning the water and sewage maintenance project, the envelopes of which will be opened this month, are that the project will aid the department and the people [providing services] to more rapidly provide such services. We have insisted that this study involve all of the needs of our citizens concerning drinking water, and that the study involve replacing [sewage pipes] or repairing ruptures in the sewage pipes. God willing, we are anticipating that these two projects will bring good results."

740 Million Riyals for Projects in al-Qatif

Concerning the al-Qatif projects, Mr al-Babtayn said: "As for the city of al-Qatif and its [surrounding] villages, on the basis of instructions from His Majesty's government and concern on the part of the Administration Council, the Water and Sewage Department in the Eastern Province, ever since its branches were opened up in Sayhat, al-Qatif, and Rahimah, has been providing water and sewage services. For example, for the city of al-Qatif and its [surrounding] villages right now there is a project worth 740 million riyals for providing sewage services. It includes a number of sewage [treatment] plants, bringing water and sewage service to residences, sewage lines, and implementation units for all of the villages of the al-Qatif area. All of the villages will be covered by this project. The project will also cover a number of smaller city areas and new areas which have recently begun to be built up."

"In addition to this project, another project concerning water and sewage maintenance will, God willing, during the next 2 months be put up for bidding. The bidding will be for contracts concerning the project's integrated operation and maintenance. As in the al-Ahsa' area, this project will cover all of the needs of our citizens. And, praise be to God, the funds have already been made available for this purpose."

"The jobs of maintenance and operation are being undertaken by the department's branch in al-Qatif. In addition to this, there are a number of contractors who are undertaking maintenance and operation work. Also, the contract has been awarded concerning a project for making a study of a water system for all of the cities and villages of the al-Qatif area. This project began about 6 months ago, and [the study] is expected to be submitted in the form of final studies along with the new budget during the 6 months."

"There is also another series of final studies which have been completed and, God willing, their envelopes will be opened in the very near future by the Ministerial Committee. They also concern the city of al-Qatif. In the budget funds have been made available for them. In addition to this, the department right now is also undertaking the job of replacement of all of the old family residence sewage systems, replacement of all of the old water systems, and also taking over the projects concerning the municipalities or the Ministry of Agriculture--which means that they will become the responsibility of the department."

The al-Khafji Water System

Concerning the department's projects in al-Khafji, he said: "As for al-Khafji, next month, God willing, the envelopes will be opened concerning the al-Khafji water systems. Funds have been made available, and we expect that the contracts for these projects will be awarded during the next 2 or 3 months after getting approval from higher authorities."

"Also, bidding has taken place concerning the project for supervision of the study of the water system of al-Khafji. As the citizens of al-Khafji know, the sewage systems are finished. Last month the Ministerial Committee actually awarded the contract for the job of hooking up the water system to homes in the city of al-Khafji. God willing, the water problem will no longer exist when the contract for the project has been awarded, when work has begun on the project, and when the project is finished. [missing text] al-Ahsa' and unifying it within the system of the Eastern [Province's] sewage water and purification plant instead of it being the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. During the implementation period, which lasts 24 months, the department will not cease supplying our citizens with water, whether by means of putting in emergency systems or by means of [wayitat]. Next week the project for constructing a building for the [Water Department] office in al-Khafji will be put up for bidding, and this building will be constructed in order that the department exercise its responsibilities [there]. So far this branch has not officially been presented to us. However, since our department wishes to begin providing services as quickly as possible, we have already started work on these studies and projects."

Study for the City of al-Khafji and al-Nu'ayriyah

"As for the al-Khafji and al-Nu'ayriyah area, a study is being made for the city of al-Khafji and an initial study is being made for al-Nu'ayriyah. The study involves enumerating the results of all studies made in the past, and concerns what the needs of the area are at the present time and what the area's projected needs will be by the year 1450 A.H. [approximately the year 2030]. The study also involves knowing what has been done so far, including studies made by Aramco, the municipalities, the Ministry of Agriculture, or any other organization, and includes determining the quality of the materials that are supposed to be utilized in the projects. The same is true for the

areas which run parallel to al-Khafji such as al-Nu'ayriyah and al-Saffaniyah. The water project in al-Khafji includes the construction of a tall water storage tank with a capacity of about 2,000 cubic meters, water purification plants, and water lines. We have chosen materials of the best quality [for this project]. They are flexible iron and reinforced plastic of additional strength in order that erosion and other negative phenomena which exist in the area will not be a problem."

Mr 'Abdallah al-Babtayn commented on the fact that most of the department's projects were studies, saying: "Let me repeat once more the fact that all of our projects are studies which are based on planning for the future. This is the view which everybody should have, especially when it comes to services. Recently a project has emerged concerning the utilization of sewage water in al-Khafji. As the citizens of al-Khafji know, al-Khafji is lacking in water. God willing, after the study has been finished the implementation of the project will be put up for bidding, and instead of dumping the sewage water we will be utilizing it for agricultural, industrial, and other purposes."

Encouraging Saudi Contractors

"It is no secret that during the last few months our department has set aside projects especially for Saudis--projects in which no foreigners may participate--and we have openly announced them on several occasions. We are still demanding that Saudis participate [in these projects], but unfortunately I must admit in all frankness that only very few Saudis have applied [to participate in these projects]. Our representatives have been knocking at their doors in Riyadh and Jiddah, but unfortunately they have been merely offering excuses [for not participating]. This is something which is deplorable on the part of our Saudi contractors. They are demanding that the government set aside projects for them and for them to engage in the implementation of, and then they excuse themselves from participating in them. I do not want to name any names here. We welcome any request on the part of any Saudi contractor for a file [concerning a project], if the contractor has the qualifications for working in the field of water and sewage service. We do not want Saudi contractors to offer excuses for non-participation, and we do not want to be forced to make contracts with foreign contractors. This is an appeal which is both authentic and sincere. I pray that, God willing, all of the Saudi contractors will respond to this appeal. Higher authorities have demanded that priority be given to Saudis. This is something which is being reaffirmed by the Department of Water and Sewage in the Eastern Province, and this policy is actually being applied. But, as I have said, we are still making this sincere appeal to have Saudi contractors apply to participate in the implementation of the department's projects. We have various and splendid projects. We have projects concerning making water and sewage studies and projects concerning the process of implementation. We only ask that the Saudi contractors be classified [and rated]. We welcome their participation, whether our invitations are open invitations, limited invitations, or public bidding. They will certainly find projects which are appropriate for their financial and work capabilities as well as their qualifications and preparation."

WESTERN SECTOR BORDER GUARD PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 12 Oct 82 p 5

[Interview With Maj Muhammad Hasan al-Shamrani, commander of Border Guard Sector in al-Qunfudhah area, by 'Abdallah Maghribi: "Commander of Border Guard Sector in al-Qunfudhah Area: Seven Posts to Guard Coast Between al-Qunfudhah and al-Layth; New Projects for Sector Costing 26.5 Million Riyals"]

[Text] The border guard sectors in all parts of our country guard our land and sea outlets, keep a watchful eye on lives and property, monitor the activities of people working at sea and insure security for beach vacationers. The border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area performs all of these tasks in the best manner, thanks to the material and human resources available to the sector. This is underlined in this interview with Maj Muhammad Hasan al-Shamrani, commander of the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area.

Seven Posts

[Question] What is the number of posts under the control of the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah and what is the longest distance between any of the posts and the sector's command headquarters?

[Answer] The number of posts under the control of the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area is seven: Khawr al-Zawahir post, which is 104 kilometers from the sector command, using patrol routes; Ra's Muhaysin post, 79 kilometers from headquarters; al-Malawihah post, 49 kilometers away; Abu al-Nur post, 15 kilometers away; al-Jumay'at post, 45 kilometers away; and al-Kuduf post, 85 kilometers away from headquarters.

Numerous Tasks

[Question] I wish you would give the reader a brief idea about the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area and the tasks performed in the sector.

[Answer] In fact, the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area is one of the sectors of the border guard command in Jiddah area and is a part of its administrative structures. This sector is considered one of the state's oldest agencies in al-Qunfudhah area--an agency founded in 1353 of the Hegira when a royal decree was issued forming the previous coast guard agency, founded in 1350 of the Hegira. This agency performed its tasks in accordance with the law

issued in 1350 of the Hegira, and those tasks included guarding the kingdom's coastline, monitoring and serving ships in accordance with international traditions, supervising safety signals in the maritime corridors and ports, organizing the utilization of marine resources, preventing the entry of banned materials and explosives, carrying out sea rescue operations and issuing licenses to marine groups. This agency has been developed so that its responsibilities include Saudi Arabia's land and sea borders. This development has come about as a result of the royal decree issued in 1382 of the Hegira and providing for creation of the border guard, to be in charge of safeguarding the kingdom's borders on land. The coast and ports guard and the border guard were merged under a single command called the General Directorate of the Border Guard and the Coast and Ports Guard. In 1396 of the Hegira, the phrase "border corps" came into use and the new name became the General Border Corps Directorate, headquarters in Riyadh. This directorate now carries out its tasks along the entire Saudi land and sea borders. Its duties have expanded, its tasks have multiplied, its military and administrative sphere has broadened and its structure has been reexamined so that it is compatible with performing its tasks and insures the achievement of its goals in accordance with a comprehensive plan. The tasks undertaken by the border guard in al-Qunfudhah area include guard duty and land and sea patrols to prevent any illegal acts liable to undermine the country's security. The tasks also include the inspection of fishing boats to make sure that they abide by the regulations and verification of the licenses of the people operating them. This is in addition to protecting property and lives, assisting in land and sea rescue operations and assistance to people who are lost.

Constant Tours

Question Have you toured the posts under your control and what are your impressions of these visits?

Answer Yes, we constantly tour all the posts under our control to make sure of the progress of work and to provide those working in the posts with instructions serving the public good. Our impressions of the tours we have conducted and are conducting are excellent because those working in each post are performing their duties with maximum efficiency, whether in terms of patrol, guard or observation duties.

Patrols and Observation

Question Are there constant patrols in the posts under your control and is there cooperation and coordination between you and al-Layth area sector, considering that al-Layth is the coastal city closest to al-Qunfudhah area?

Answer There are constant patrols 24 hours a day at all of the posts under our command. Should the need arise, the number of guard and observation patrols is increased. The normal patrols operate 24 hours a day at the rate of two every 12 hours. As for cooperation and coordination between our sector and al-Layth sector, there is extensive cooperation in the coast guard sphere, considering that al-Qunfudhah sector patrols link up with al-Layth sector

patrols at a certain point. The cooperation and coordination are established in the interest of the public good. Consequently, most of the coastal areas between al-Qunfudhah and al-Layth are covered well both on land and sea.

New Building

Question When was the new building of the border corps sector in al-Qunfudhah completed, what does it include and how much did it cost?

Answer The new building was completed and delivered in the month of Dhi al-Hijjah of the year 1401 of the Hegira, and we moved into the building in the month of Muharram of 1402 of the Hegira. The building includes a wing for the sector command consisting of two floors and containing the command offices and another wing containing personnel quarters, food halls, a kitchen and storehouses. The building's total cost was 3 million riyals. There is also an independent building for maintenance workshops that cost a total of 5 million riyals. This building was constructed by an international firm which carried out all of the workshop projects in all of the kingdom's border guard commands and sectors. A number of select officers and noncommissioned officers were sent on scholarships by the General Border Corps Directorate to France so that the executing firm could train them to manage the maintenance activities. These officers and noncommissioned officers have graduated and begun their work.

Very Few Incidents

Question What is the rate of drowning accidents along the coastline of al-Qunfudhah area and what, in your opinion, are the causes of these accidents?

Answer The rate of drowning accidents in al-Qunfudhah area coastline is very small, God be thanked, as a result of the vigilance of the citizens and of the guards and their awareness of their responsibility and as a result of the fact that there are no designated swimming areas that the public frequents, unlike the Jiddah coastline. A drowning accident did occur on the beach of Hala village, at Marma al-Hasa to be precise, in 1400. The victim died immediately and the divers from the post close to the site were able to recover the victim's body. In 1401 of the Hegira, there was another drowning accident in the coastal stretch between the southern end of al-Qunfudhah and al-Qana' park. This year, there have been no accidents, God be thanked.

Ban on Quail Hunting

Question Umm al-Qamari Island is close to the city of al-Qunfudhah, abounds with quail and has a beautiful beach. What is the reason for banning picnics and bird hunting on this island?

Answer The ban on the hunting of quail which abound on the island, is the result of an observation made by the director of agricultural development in the Western Province during his visit to the island in 1394 of the Hegira. The director noted that these birds are a wealth that must be preserved. Consequently, a royal decree was issued and conveyed by the Ministry of Interior

to Mecca Province and then to al-Qunfudhah Province banning the hunting of the birds on that island. Since then, we have banned picnics to the island and we continue to ban quail hunting on the island.

Sector Projects

Question What are the projects already implemented and the projects that will be implemented in the border corps of al-Qunfudhah area?

Answer The projects to build premises for the posts under the sector's control have been completed. They include Khawr al-Zawahir post at a total cost of 1.2 million riyals; text missing at a cost of 2 million riyals; al-Malawihah post, which is of the H type, at a cost of 500,000 riyals--to be enlarged at a cost of 800,000 riyals; Abu al-Nur post, which is of the H type, at a total cost of 2 million riyals; and the association premises, which is of the H type, at a total cost of 500,000 riyals, with planned expansions costing 300,000 riyals. The implementation of a number of projects will begin next month. They include annexes to the sector command, consisting of an officers club, a mosque, a central library, a movie theater, a guest house, model storehouses and car parks, in addition to a number of rooms for power generators and prefabricated buildings for al-Mina' port and al-Kuduf posts. A special sea pier will be built for the border guards in the province. It will include boat and launch maintenance workshops, office buildings and a dock for boat maintenance. The total cost of these projects is 26.5 million riyals. Other projects under study, including a housing project for officers and noncommissioned officers, a new helicopter pad, fences and trees around the posts under the sector's control, paved yards at the posts, gas stations for each post, electrical generators and a public park and athletic fields around the border guards building in the city of al-Qunfudhah.

Koran is Our Constitution

Question Under the canopy of the wise leadership that his majesty the king and his highness the crown prince watch over, our country lives in security and safety. In your capacity as one of the security men in this country, what are the reasons for the security we are experiencing?

Answer This country, may God support it, adopts God's book and the Sunna of His prophet as its firm constitution. This is why we find that our country, God be thanked, is enjoying the blessing of peace and safety. The credit for all this goes to God, may He be praised, and to following His dictates in the affairs of our life, with serious follow-up from the government of his majesty, may God support him, which seeks always what is good for our young kingdom.

Citizens and Security Men

Question What word would you like to address to the province's citizens and what is your word to the members of the border guard sector in al-Qunfudhah area?

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[Answer] I would like to remind the fraternal citizens that the security man everywhere is one of them and seeks what is in their interest. Therefore, they should cooperate with him so that he can carry out the duty entrusted to him and perform his task in the best manner possible. As for my colleagues who work in this sector, I beg them to be careful in performing the military duties, to work seriously and sincerely and to heed God in all that they do.

8494

CSO: 4404/55

EASTERN PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 9 Oct 82 p 3

[Article: "Ministerial Committee To Follow Up on Development Projects in Eastern Province"]

[Text] Al-Dammam—Eng 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shuhayl, director general of Eastern Province municipal and rural affairs, has announced that there is a ministerial committee comprising eight ministers and formed in accordance with a royal decree to follow up on implementation of the Eastern Province's development projects. This committee meets periodically to follow up on the development projects implemented in the Eastern Province.

Al-Shuhayl said that a subcommittee has been formed from this committee to supervise implementation of the projects to insure prompt implementation and the observance of specifications. This committee is headed by Prince 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn Jalawi, the Eastern Province governor. The subcommittee holds regular meetings to follow up on the progress of projects already awarded to bidders and the strides made by such projects.

Engineer al-Shuhayl pointed out that the committee prepares continuous reports on the progress of work in the projects for the royal office so that it can familiarize itself with and follow up on the Eastern Province projects and on their developmental needs and approve projects needed by the province.

The general director of the Eastern Province municipal and rural affairs added that province cities and villages over the past 10 years have witnessed a number of major projects and public services and utilities. Most of these projects have been delivered, and some are currently being implemented. A number of studies and blueprints is also being prepared for a number of other projects in preparation for getting them under way.

He also said that road asphaltting and paving projects have covered all cities of the Eastern Province and of al-Ahsa', including the new plans in the two provinces. There are also numerous water, sewerage and rainwater drainage projects for the cities of al-Dammam, al-Khubar, al-Qatif and adjacent villages and al-Jubayl, Abqayq, al-Ahsa' and adjacent villages. The first phase of the drainage project has been completed. The second phase of the project, costing 400 million riyals, will be awarded to bidders in the next

few days. Work is also in progress to expand al-Dammam city sewers. This project will be delivered shortly; it cost 920 million riyals.

Engr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shuhayl also noted that a royal decree has been issued stipulating that the municipalities of al-Khubar, Dhahran and al-Dammam be merged in a single municipality under the name al-Dammam District Municipality, that the municipalities of al-Qatif and the adjacent villages be merged in a single municipality under the name al-Qatif District Municipality, that the two municipalities of Hafr al-Batin and al-Qaysumah be merged under the name Hafr al-Batin Municipality and that the municipalities of al-Ahsa' and the adjacent villages be merged under the name al-Ahsa' District Municipality. This decree was implemented as of the first day of the last month of Rajab.

Al-Shuhayl pointed out that this royal decree seeks to improve the standard of the services rendered by the province municipalities, especially services concerning the citizens in these cities and villages, considering that the citizen will not have to check with the main municipality when he needs something done. The branches of the main municipality will offer all services and will perform the licensing and tax collection tasks as in the past.

The general director of Eastern Province municipal and rural affairs noted: "Six months after carrying out the merger, we have noticed that the measure has had a positive impact on the citizens, on the progress of work and on providing the best municipal services to the citizens. The municipal activities have been proceeding in an orderly manner, technical capabilities have been gathered, the studies have become focused and accurate and the financial accounts and records have been organized better and more accurately than before."

He added that appropriations have been allocated in this year's budget of al-Khubar Municipality to expropriate a number of sites on which to build public parks and gardens. The triangle on al-Zahrani Street, with an area of 56,000 square meters, has been expropriated for a recreation park. The piece of land located on Prince Turki Street along the beach has also been expropriated for a beach park to be built on an area exceeding 300,000 square meters. The municipality is currently preparing the studies and initial blueprints for the project prior to presenting it for general bidding.

On the issue of utilizing drainage and sewerage water in irrigating gardens and trees, Engineer al-Shuhayl pointed out that the Eastern Province Water and Sewerage Agency is conducting a study on utilizing this water in irrigation operations, considering that a green belt of trees 13 kilometers long and 1 kilometer wide will be planted in western al-Dammam completely irrigated by drainage and sewerage water after it is treated and purified. This park will also help stop desertification of al-Dammam city and will soften its climate.

Regarding the Eastern Province corniche project, which will begin at Nisf al-Qamar beach and pass through al-'Aziziyah beach, al-Khubar and al-Dammam beachfront and Sayhat, 'Anak and al-Qatif and terminate in Darayn, with a

length of 120 kilometers, Engineer al-Shuhayl pointed out that the ministerial committee following up on the province's development affairs and projects has decided that the blueprints for the project be modified, that the cornice be fortified in a number of places, that trees be planted along its sides and that car parking areas and traffic lights be included. Al-Shuhayl also noted that the necessary studies and blueprints have been completed and that the first stage of the project, which will link al-Khubar with al-Dammam, will be offered for public bidding at the beginning of the next month of Muharram.

As for al-Qatif District and its villages, Eng 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shuhayl said that this year it has obtained a number of development projects. Regarding the city planning and organization, 600 million riyals has been allocated to expropriate al-Qal'ah Quarter and to improve a number of roads and buildings, taking into consideration the quarter's heritage, its historical sites and its ancient buildings. The projects also provide for asphaltting all the roads of al-Qatif and its villages, as well as its dirt roads.

Concerning the water and sewerage projects, al-Shuhayl noted that the first phase of the project for the water and sewerage networks of al-Qatif's central area was completed recently and that more than 7,000 home connections have been installed. The bids made for the second phase of the project, including all quarters of al-Qatif City and the new residential quarters, are now being analyzed; 400 million riyals have been allocated for this purpose.

The Eastern Province Water and Sewerage Agency is currently conducting a study on building a unified network and a water reservoir for al-Qatif and its villages; 200 million riyals have been allocated for this project. As for building car parking lots in the Eastern Province cities, Engineer al-Shuhayl said that the directorate has a plan to build multilevel car parks in al-Khubar and al-Dammam on sites currently used as parking lots. The municipality will build these car parks and a contractor will operate and maintain them.

The director general of Eastern Province municipal and rural affairs also noted that al-Dammam District Municipality will shortly build a public park with an area of 1 million square meters. The blueprints necessary for the project were drawn up recently. The park will be built north of al-Dammam on al-Dammam-Petroleum University Road. A plot of land on al-Dammam-Ra's Tannurah Road has also been prepared for the construction of workshops and car and electrical repair shops. The municipality is presently asphaltting the roads within the site and supplying the site with utilities prior to supplying them to the owners of the workshops that will be moved from inside al-Dammam to the site.

Regarding al-Dammam, al-Khubar and Dhahran sanitation projects, Engineer al-Shuhayl said that the directorate has a draft plan to invite bids from specialized foreign firms to enhance sanitation services.

Regarding the beautification projects currently being implemented in the cities of the Eastern Province and al-Ahsa' and its villages, al-Shuhayl noted that al-Dammam District Municipality is currently holding numerous contacts with al-Dammam Culture and Arts Society and with the Eastern Province artists who are helping to produce more than 30 beautification models for various quarters of the city.

AL-ASAD STRESSES NEED FOR SELF-RELIANCE, STRATEGIC BALANCE WITH ISRAEL

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 298, 6 Nov 82 p 19

[Article by Marwan al-Mahayini: "Damascus Satisfied With Relations With Soviets, Afraid of American Trap"]

[Text] Last week was characterized by extensive Syrian-Soviet activity aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries on all levels. In addition to the many celebrations, fairs and exhibitions which took place in both countries commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty and Arab-Soviet friendship week, a number of statements and communiques were issued by leaders and senior officials in both countries stressing their desire to continue strengthening relations to the greatest extent possible in areas which would serve joint issues and struggles. President al-Asad, in response to rumors concerning the supposed reduction in Soviet support for Syria, said in his latest statement on the subject, "The Soviets are our friends. We ask them for weapons but we do not ask them for men and, therefore, we did not ask them today and we will never ask them to fight in our place." President al-Asad continued, "It is worth mentioning that a country which does not fight for itself, by itself is not blessed."

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Ru'uf al-Kasm, in a speech delivered during his recent meeting with workers, said, "It is necessary for our enemies the Americans, the Israelis and their agents to know that we are not alone and that with us in all sincerity and honor is the socialist camp and the Soviet Union as well as all people who are fighting and struggling." He added, "It is stupid to believe that we have been deluded for a moment into thinking that it is possible for the American administration or American policy to change one iota in the interest of the Arabs. On the contrary, this policy becomes increasingly strident and hostile." He stressed that, "Syria has no choice in the face of this hostility except to increase work, production and solidarity and to close ranks inside Syria and the Arab world." On this matter a Syrian official close to AL-MUSTAQBAL said that the results of the visit of the seven-member Arab committee to Washington and its meeting with President Reagan reaffirmed the correctness of the Syrian position which Damascus has affirmed all along to all its Arab brothers in every meeting and conference. This position is that there is no usefulness to be had in a dialog with the United States or in an effort to make its position less biased toward Israel without this being accompanied by an Arab position which is backed by a solidarity which is real, effective and able to create a strategic balance which must be created with the enemy who is

becoming more arrogant and hostile, who is revealing greater expansionist desires and who is flouting current international resolutions and attempts to create a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Syrian source brought up President al-Asad's statement that, "A strategic balance is the only way, whether we seek war or peace. It is difficult for anyone in or out of Syria to hope for a just and true peace in the shadow of the current Israeli military superiority." He stressed President al-Asad's point that Syria realizes that this balance cannot be established overnight but requires work and time and his statement that, "We are on our way to achieving this." The source, in responding to AL-MUSTAQBAL's questions concerning the extent of Syria's continued dependence on Arab support under the prevailing Arab situation, indicated that Syria, with its adherence to and work for the desired Arab solidarity, is determined to work toward building and developing its self-reliance. Concerning this, the source stressed President al-Asad's statement that, "The Arab solidarity that we desire cannot be a replacement for Syrian self-reliance."

Meanwhile, Damascus has continued to follow a media policy which strives not to enter any media battles with any Arab party but to focus on clarifying the basic principles of the firm Syrian position concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Syrian point of view concerning all current proposals and ongoing contacts in the region. Thus, the line of total Syrian support for the new Lebanese government and for President Amin al-Jumayyil has continued and the recent statements of President al-Asad have been carried which clearly indicate Syrian satisfaction with the policy of President al-Jumayyil and Syria's best wishes for his term and for Lebanon.

CSO: 4404/105

REAGAN PLAN IGNORES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

JN191153 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA)--TISHRIN has stated that the Reagan plan as announced does not respond to the most fundamental legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The paper says: This plan does not recognize these rights in any way. As a matter of fact, it does not even demand the dismantling of the settlements which have been established all over the West Bank. It also refers neither to the question of Arab Jerusalem nor to the occupied Golan. This plan, as announced in Washington, is subject to modification to guarantee Israeli approval. This means that the plan, which addresses a bare minimum of Arab rights, is also subject to revision.

The paper adds: If the Israeli stand is to refuse to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967 and to reject the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and if the U.S. stand is to support this rejection and to encourage Israel to commit further aggression, why then do Arabs rush toward this peace, when a real peace, one which guarantees withdrawal and the rights of the Palestinian people, is rejected by the other side?

The paper adds: The achievement of a strategic balance remains, under the present circumstances, the only course which satisfies the demand for liberation of the land and achievement of rights. There can be no peace between the strong and the weak, nor negotiation from a position of weakness. The strategic balance is not an unachievable dream. It is within Arab reach, today or tomorrow.

TISHRIN concludes: The Americans and the Zionists want the Arabs to surrender. By proposing this strategic balance and working for its achievements, Syria wants an honorable peace for the Arabs which guarantees land and rights.

CSO: 4400/96

SYRIA

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA--Damascus, 21 Nov (SANA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a copy of the credentials of Andress Ceustermans, the new Argentine ambassador in Damascus. [JN211446 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Nov 82]

CSO: 4400/96

FEATURES, OBJECTIVES OF 1982-1986 ECONOMIC PLANS OUTLINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 294, 9 Oct 82 pp 49-50

[Article: "Tunisia Is on Threshold of New Economic Phase; Sixth 5-Year Plan Faces Drop in Oil and Phosphate Exports and Gives Private Sector Bigger Role in Building Tunisian Economy; Unemployment Will Be Tunisia's Number One Problem in 1980's"]

[Text] The major feature of the Tunisian 1982-86 5-year plan is that it establishes the foundations of a future economy that does not rely on oil revenues as a main element of state revenues.

It is evident that the drop in the price of the country's two main products, oil and phosphate, in addition to the possibility of the imminent depletion of the oil reserves, have been the two basic factors behind the new economic planning in Tunisia.

Tunisia has allocated 8.2 billion dinars for the sixth 5-year plan. Thanks to oil, the value of exports in the previous (1977-81) 5-year plan rose at a higher rate than that of imports—14.6 percent annually—thus enabling Tunisia to keep the deficit in its balance of payments within reasonable limits. But the situation is totally different in the current phase, which coincides with rising unemployment. Therefore, the solution adopted by the Tunisian economic planners as a way of achieving a general growth rate of 6.6 annually is to increase the production of the other sectors, especially electrical industries and light mechanical industries, in the hope that these sectors will absorb the rising unemployment and generate revenues from alternative sources bolstered by higher efficiency in the agricultural sector and a reduction in spending on imports.

The new 5-year plan gives a greater role to the private sector. In this respect, the 5-year plan asserts that "Tunisian socialism must open a broad sphere to the private sector and must encourage it."

The World Bank has lauded Tunisia's "courage" in dealing with the problem of the drop in its oil revenues and rising unemployment and considers the new 5-year plan "balanced and realistic."

The 5-year plan estimates the annual oil production at 6.2 million petroleum tons (PET) annually during the years of the plan, compared to 5.5 million tons during the years of the previous (1977-81) plan. Because it is estimated that local oil consumption will rise to 4.3 million tons annually, the export volume will drop to 1.9 million tons annually, compared with 2.8 million tons during the years of the previous 5-year plan. Consequently, the annual growth rate in the oil sector will be just 1.8 percent, compared with 12.9 percent in the previous 5-year plan. These figures take into consideration the recently discovered oil fields in the southwestern province. If the new fields achieve the hopes attached to them, they will make up for the drop in the production of the fields currently utilized.

Whereas the rise in oil prices in 1978 led to bolstering the Tunisian economy, the current stagnation in the world oil market caused the price of Tunisian oil to drop by 10 percent in the first quarter of the current year, according to the statistics of the new 5-year plan. This factor, in addition to a similar drop in the price of phosphate and its derivatives, means Tunisia's commodity and service exports should rise by just 5.5 percent annually until the year 1986, compared with a growth rate of 7.5 percent during the years of the previous 5-year plan.

Mohamed Mzali's government, which introduced Tunisia to membership in OAPEC Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, is facing an obvious problem insofar as the future oil price fluctuations is concerned. In its capacity as an oil exporting country, its prime interest lies in the continued rise of oil prices to their previous levels. In this respect, Mzali's government expects an annual growth of 3.5 percent in the period from 1982 to 1986. On the other hand, Tunisia's need to import fuel under the shadow of the rising prices will have a negative impact on its balance of payments.

This expected decline at the level of the commercial sector has been the main factor behind the economic strategy of the new 5-year plan, considering that this plan imposes controls on imports with the aim of containing the deficit in the current account to an annual rate not exceeding 2.1 billion dinars (\$3.362 billion). To achieve this objective, it is imperative to curtail import spending and to confine its growth to just 4 percent annually on the basis of the fixed prices, compared with 12.3 percent annually in the previous 5-year plan.

The new plan aspires to achieve a large surplus at the level of fuel spending, considering that the growth in this spending will be set at 9.4 percent annually, compared with 38.5 percent annually between 1977 and 1981. The 5-year plan expects that the increased local gas production and expansion of the Bizerte oil refinery will lead to a reduction in Tunisia's refined oil imports. The five-year plan includes an appropriation of 90 million dinars (\$144.3 million) for gas prospecting activities and for developing the currently utilized fields, compared with 15 million dinars (\$24 million) allocated for the purpose between 1977 and 1981.

Problem of Unemployment

Unemployment is considered the main problem faced by Tunisia on the threshold of the sixth 5-year plan. In 1980, unemployment among youth below the age of 25 was 49 percent, compared with 29 percent in 1966. The 5-year plan estimates that nearly 324,000 youths will enter the labor market at the start of 1986, whereas the most optimistic estimates believe that the jobs created by then will not exceed 300,000, thus putting more than 25,000 Tunisian youths face-to-face with the option of either unemployment or emigration. In this respect, the plan anticipates that the emigration of trained and vocational labor to the Arab Gulf will increase and views this emigration a part of the aid that the Gulf states will advance to Tunisia.

As for the investments allocated for the creation of new jobs during the sixth 5-year plan, they will remain practically at the same level of the investments allocated for this purpose in the previous 5-year plan, i.e., nearly 60 percent of the plan's total investments. However, industries requiring a high manpower rate will get a bigger share than in the current plan, i.e., 28 percent of the plan's appropriations compared with 21.2 percent of the previous plan's appropriations. In this sphere, the plan focuses on the mechanical and electrical industries. The plan expects the accomplishments of these industries to bolster Tunisian exports, expected to rise from 41 million Tunisian dinars (\$65.7 million) in 1981 to 140 million dinars (\$224.4 million) in 1986.

Financing

During the 1970's Tunisia exercised a reasonable degree of control over official spending and is now maintaining a high level of national savings. Even though the state resorts to borrowing, its foreign debt has not exceeded 12 percent of the gross national product. This is a healthy rate for a developing country.

Out of its awareness of the difficult conditions that Tunisia will face, the new 5-year plan has reduced investment as a proportion of the gross national product from 34 percent in the previous plan to 31 percent in this plan. This reduction will be achieved by increasing national savings by curtailing the consumption growth to 6.8 percent of the national product compared with 7.7 percent in the previous 5-year plan. The plan expects this measure to produce a national surplus in the neighborhood of 6.45 billion dinars (\$10,342,000,000). This is another indication of the soundness of the economic position of this Third World country. The new plan maintains the same investment rate by the private sector and the public sector as in the previous plan. The public sector's investments will amount to 2.71 billion Tunisian dinars (\$4.345 billion) whereas the private sector will provide 2.07 billion dinars (\$3.319 billion). The plan puts the national surplus at 1.67 billion dinars (\$2.678 billion).

The plan also imposes restrictions on imports, which are expected to drop below the level of exports. Therefore, it is essential that the import rate rise by no more than 4 percent annually during the next 5 years, compared with

a growth rate of 6.6 percent annually in exports. The goal of this direction is to keep the growth rate of the deficit in the balance of payments no higher than 8.6 percent of the gross national product, compared with 7 percent in the previous plan. Despite this, Tunisia's borrowing needs will rise, amounting to 3.5 billion dinars (\$5.612 billion) during the sixth 5-year plan.

The plan makers acknowledge that this factor will pose a dilemma to the country, considering that Tunisia is suffering from the burden of high interest rates. The interest rates on loans from the World Bank alone rose from 8 percent in 1979 to 11 percent at the beginning of 1982. The interest rates on loans from commercial banks rose from 9 percent to 16 percent in the same period.

Foreign investments, especially in industry and tourism, represent nearly one-quarter of Tunisia's foreign financing. This rate is not expected to increase during the sixth 5-year plan. However, the joint banks founded by Tunisia in partnership with the Gulf states will facilitate activities concerning the foreign financing of Tunisian projects at a time when World Bank financing has become more difficult than before.

The 5-year plan expects Tunisia's long-term loans to rise to 2.32 billion dinars (\$3.72 billion) and its medium-range loans to 1.18 billion dinars (\$1.892 billion). Tunisia is turning to the international money markets to obtain 550 million dinars (\$882 million) for a period of 8 years at interest rates not exceeding 13 percent.

The World Bank's assessments concerning the Tunisian economy are characterized by optimism, especially in regard to the future of phosphate exports and the growth of so-called professional ambitions in Tunisia in an atmosphere more conducive to the private sector than before.

8494

CSO: 4504/37

REPORT ON PRICE CONTROL AND SUPPLY--FIRST HALF OF 1982

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 5 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] We are continuing publication of the results of the first half of 1982 published in the September issue of the Ministry of the Economy's publication "CONJONCTURE."

This second part involves price control and domestic market supply (see LE TEMPS of 3 October).

Price Control

During the first half of 1982, the regional price control departments reported 5,196 violations; 31 percent involving illegal price increases, 30 percent involving lack of approval, and 21 percent, lack of an invoice. The other violations discovered during this period basically include failure to transmit documents, illegal slaughtering and refusal to sell. Compared to the same period in 1981, these violations showed an increase of 57.6 percent, the reason for this increase being increased price control activity. Lack of approval and lack of invoices increased by 165 percent and 96 percent respectively. As for violations involving illegal price increases, they only increased by 4.3 percent during the same period.

On a regional level, the increase in violations was greater in Tunis (+ 56 percent), Kairouan (+65 percent), Bizerte (+78 percent), Kasserine (+48 percent), and particularly in Sfax where violations increased by 369 percent.

Violations by type of business were more numerous in fruits and vegetables (31 percent) and general food products (23 percent); moderate in fish and poultry (13 percent), textiles (7 percent) and butcher shops (6 percent); and few in other types of businesses such as construction materials (2.4 percent) and household articles.

Supply

During the first half of 1982 supply problems affected various regions of the country. Thus, a shortage of construction materials (cement, lime and whitewash) was observed in Kasserine, Gafsa, Nabeul, Zaghuan and Medenine in particular, and in Sfax, Sousse and Sidi Bouzid to a lesser degree.

This phenomenon could have been due to an evergrowing demand and to the technical problems which had interfered with plant operation. Similarly, concrete bar and iron in diameters of 6, 10 and 12 were in poor supply in Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid and Sousse. As far as food products are concerned, shortages of bottled milk were observed in Kasserine and Gabes, and of "Gloria" canned milk in Sousse. There was a shortage of green tea in Gabes and Medenine. As for other food products, very limited shortages of bulk butter, gruyere cheese, dry yeast, eggs and poultry were observed in Zaghouan, Medenine, Sidi Bouzid and Sfax depending on the circumstance. As for other non-food products, "Omo" was in short supply in Sid Bouzid; and bottled LPG (especially Butagas) in Zaghouan and particularly in Gaves and Tunis.

Finally, other products of greater or lesser importance, such as packing paper, nescafe or Safia water, proved to be in short supply, but within tolerable limits and for a limited period.

As part of the normal supplying of the market, during the first half of the year, 90,500 metric tons of sugar, including 17,500 metric tons of brown sugar, 5,000 tons of super black tea, and 2,000 tons of unroasted coffee were imported.

These customary imports took place in conformance with forecasts and involved almost half of the quantities forecast for the year 1982 without running out of supplies. Superior green tea was not imported during the first half and the market was supplied from available stock; in any case, shortages were noted in certain areas and sometimes even in very limited scarcities.

Periodic Imports

Type	6 Mos. 1981	6 Mos. 1982	1982 Forecast	% Filled	Comments
Fruit (in m tons)					
Bananas	9,000	11,500	14,000	82%	
Apples	5,000	-	-		
Vegetables (in m tons)					
Potatoes	14,000	2,000	2,000		Tideover
Animals for Slaughter (in head)					
Sheep	5,000	-	40,000		10,000 to be
Cattle	15,000	-	45,000		fattened
Fresh meat (in tons)	-	-	5,500		
Frozen meat "	-	-	2,200		
Pasteurized Milk (in 106 liters)		7.3	15	49%	Local production
Evaporated Milk (cartons)		120,000	260,000	46%	in the organized
					sector amounts
					to 410,000 liters/
					day
-Butter		2,000	4,000	50%	
-Cheese		1,000	2,000	50%	
-Yeast		600	1,250	48%	
Cement (in m. tons)		176,000	350,000	50%	

Customary Imports

Sugar	90,200	90,500	170,000	53%
Tea	3,900	5,000	10,500	48%
Coffee	2,000	2,000	4,400	45%
Black Pepper	250	0	1,300	0%

Periodic imports included 115,000 metric tons of bananas and 2,000 metric tons of potatoes used for a tide-over period. Last year, these imports were 9,000 and 14,000 metric tons respectively. Let us add that contrary to last year, this year apples were not imported.

Milk imports amounted to 7.3 million liters of pasteurized milk, or 48 percent of the forecast, and 120,000 cartons of evaporated milk out of the 260,000 cartons forecast for the whole year.

Imports of food products also included 600 metric tons of yeast; 2,000 metric tons of butter and 1,000 metric tons of cheese; forecasts for the year are 1,250 metric tons, 400 metric tons and 2,000 metric tons, respectively. To make up for production shortages, imports of 350,000 metric tons of cement are planned, 176,000 metric tons of which have already been imported during the first half of the year.

Foreign Trade

During the first 5 months of this year, imports amounted to 832 MD's [million dinars] and exports to 480 MD's, thus showing a commercial trade deficit of 352 MD's and a rate of coverage of 58 percent. Compared to the same period in 1981, imports increased by 29 MD's (or 3.5 percent) and exports decreased by 1 MD (or 0.4 percent). The result of this is an increase of 9.4 percent (or 30 MD's) in the trade deficit and simultaneously a drop of 3.7 percent in the rate of coverage.

Imports

In regard to imports, the largest increase in comparison to the first 5 months of 1981 involves semi-finished products (+38 percent), including chemical products and semi-finished plastic, rubber and textile industry products and parts and spare parts for mechanical construction. Then come non-food consumer goods and natural products such as wood, raw tobacco and raw materials for cattle feed (+18 percent).

Similarly, mineral products increased by 17 percent. On the other hand, the food product group showed a decrease of 14 percent (-12 MD's); energy products, 12 percent (-21 MD's); and durable goods, 11 percent (-25 MD's). In the first group, the decrease primarily involved coffee, sugar, and, to a lesser extent, milk products. As for energy products, the drop in imports is explained by the drop in local consumption. For durable goods, the drop is explained by the fact that imports of these goods reached an exceptionally high level last year.

Exports

Among the groups which showed increases, durable goods (mechanical and electrical appliances) are leading (+134 percent); followed by mineral products (especially phosphates) (+25 percent); then non-food consumer goods (textile products (-1 percent) and animal or natural products (+20 percent).

Finally, good products showed a drop of 20 percent, and this despite the significant improvement seen in olive oil.

First 5 Months (in MD's)		Change		
Category	1981	1982	Total	Percent
Imports	803	832	+ 29	+ 3.5
Exports	481	480	- 1	- 0.4
Deficit	322	352	+ 30	+ 9.4
Rate of Coverage	60%	38%	- 2%	- 3.7%

Violations By Region

First 6 Months of 1982									
Type	Tunis	Nabeul	Sousse	Kai-rouan	Sfax	Bizerte	Gabes	Kas-serine	Kef
Illegal increase	474	81	123	128	242	30	36	97	20
No Invoice	598	14	50	36	132	11	11	35	31
No Approval	416	130	136	82	210	90	27	86	28
Other Viol.	365	27	35	25	153	11	25	69	21
Total-1st Half 1982	1833	252	344	271	737	142	99	297	100
Total-1st Half 1981	1197	261	351	164	157	90	96	194	115
% Change	+56.1	-3.4	-2.0	+65.2	-369.4	+77.5	+3.1	+47.9	-13.0

Type	First 6 Months						Change	
	Mede-nine	Beja	Gafsa	Sidi Bouzid	Za-ghou-an	1982	1981	%
Illegal Increase	52	154	112	49	10	1608	1541	+4.3
No Invoice	14	55	57	23	20	1102	561	+96.4
No Approval	48	74	93	110	6	1536	579	+165.3
Other Viol.	36	54	46	55	43	950	615	+54.5
Total-1st Half 1982	150	337	308	237	79	5186	3296	+57.6
Total-1st Half 1981	307	159	225	-	-			
% Change	-51.1	+11.9	+36.9					

Violations By Type of Business (1st Half 1982)

Violation	General Food	Fruits Vegs.	Butcher Shops	Textiles	House- hold Arts.	Constr. Matls.
Illegal Increase	381	413	126	85	43	44
No Invoice	257	390	-	110	50	21
No Approval	389	614	75	129	1	24
Other Viol.	177	184	126	41	13	34
Total Viol.	1204 (23.2%)	1601 (30.8%)	327 (6.3%)	365 (7.0%)	107 (2.1%)	123 (2.4%)
	<u>Fish Poultry</u>	<u>Paint Hardware</u>	<u>Misc.</u>	<u>Total</u>		
Illegal Increase	245	34	237	1608		
No Invoice	132	27	115	1102		
No Approval	259	3	32	1536		
Other Viol.	40	11	334	950		
Total Viol.	676 (13.0%)	75 (1.4%)	718 (13.8%)	5196 (100.0%)		

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CSO: 4519/48

FIGURES ON FOREIGN TRADE, TOURISM RELEASED

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 6 Oct 82 p 4

[Article: "Foreign Trade: Increased Deficit. Tourism: Decreased Number of Entries"]

[Text] In its Sunday 3 and Tuesday 5 October issues, LE TEMPS reproduced the first three reports published in the September issue of CONJONCTURE, the magazine of the Ministry of National Economy, dealing with indicators used in the balance of trade for the first semester of 1982. We are reproducing two more reports below: one on foreign trade, the other on tourism; both show a marked downtrend.

Foreign Trade

During the first five months of the current year, importations amounted to 832 million dinars and exportations to 480 million dinars, thus showing a trade deficit of 352 million dinars and a rate of coverage of 58 percent. Compared with the same period in 1981, importations increased by 29 million dinars (or 3.5 percent) and exportations decreased by 1 million dinars (or 0.4 percent); the result is a 9.4 percent (or 30 million dinar) increase in the trade deficit, and a 3.7 percent decrease in the rate of coverage.

1. Importations

As far as importations are concerned, the largest increase over the first five months of 1981 is in semi-manufactured products (+ 38 percent), including chemicals, and the semi-manufactured products of the plastics, rubber and textile industries, as well as parts and spare parts for the mechanical engineering industry. They are followed by non-food consumer goods and vegetable raw materials, including wood, raw tobacco and animal feed materials... (+ 18 percent).

Similarly, mineral products showed a 17 percent increase. On the other hand, food product importations decreased by 14 percent (- 12 million dinars), energy products by 12 percent (- 21 million dinars) and durable goods by 11 percent (- 25 million dinars). In the first group, the decline affected mainly coffee, sugar and, to a lesser extent, dairy products. For energy products, the decline in importations is accounted for by the decline in

domestic consumption; for durable goods, the decline is accounted for by the fact that importation of these goods had reached an exceptionally high level last year.

<u>Category</u>	<u>First Five Months</u>		<u>Variation</u>	
	<u>1981*</u>	<u>1982*</u>	<u>Abs.*</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Importations	803	832	+ 29	+ 3.5
Exportations	481	480	- 1	- 0.4
Deficit	322	352	+ 30	+ 9.4
Rate of coverage	60 %	58 %	- 2 %	- 3.7 %

* In million dinars.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Importations</u>			<u>Exportations</u>		
	<u>First 5 Months*</u>			<u>First 5 Months*</u>		
	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>Variation</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>Variation</u>
Food products	86	74	- 14 %	43	35	- 20 %
Energy products	171	150	- 12 %	257	234	- 9 %
Animal or vegetable products	40	48	+ 18 %	4	5	+ 20 %
Mineral products	29	34	+ 17 %	10	13	+ 25 %
Semi-manufactured products	140	192	+ 38 %	73	70	- 4 %
Durable goods	219	194	- 11 %	9	20	+134 %
Consumer goods	<u>119</u>	<u>140</u>	+ 18 %	<u>85</u>	<u>103</u>	+ 21 %
Total	804	832	+ 3.5 %	481	480	- 0.4%

[* In million dinars.]

2. Exportations

Among the groups for which exportations increased, durable goods (mechanical and electrical equipment) come first (+ 134 percent), followed by mineral products (especially phosphates) (+ 25 percent), non-food consumer goods (textiles) (+ 21 percent) and animal or vegetable products (+ 20 percent).

Finally, food product exportations decreased by 20 percent in spite of the marked improvement observed for olive oil.

3. Oil Products

We should note that foreign trade figures are provided by INS [National Institute of Statistics] which enters trade operations at the time of the customs declaration. However, for oil products, ETAP [Tunisian Petroleum Activities Enterprise] enters importations and exportations at the time of departure or arrival of the ships. Therefore, the figures provided by the two sources do not tally; ETAP statistics for the first six months are given below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Importations</u>		<u>Exportations</u>	
	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
Crude	51.2	41.1 (-20 %)	177.6	191.6 (+ 8 %)
Refined	39.0	60.7 (+55 %)	-	-
Total	90.2	101.8 (+13 %)	177.6	191.6 (+ 8 %)

Source: ETAP

Tourism

During the first five months of the current year, 558,213 tourists entered the country, compared with 714,588 during the same period in 1981, corresponding to a decline of 22 percent. This was due mainly to the decline in the number of Algerian tourists: 282,685 in 1981, and 128,799 in 1982, i.e. a 54 percent decrease. As far as other nationalities are concerned, the decline affected mainly the British and German markets. Roughly, the European market is declining. However, the number of Libyan tourists increased considerably: from 2,705 during the first five months of 1981 to 17,366 during the same period in 1982. There were also 38 percent more tourists from the Middle-East.

Bed nights for the first semester amount to 5,192,759, compared with 5,488,320 during the same period in 1981, i.e. they declined by 5.4 percent.

ONTT [National Office of Tourism and Thermal Springs] data, as well as data from tour operators and tourism professionals indicate that an improvement could take place in July. All the same, the rate of occupancy will not reach 100 percent, due to the availability of a large hotel capacity (6,100 beds).

The next three months should see a consolidation of the recovery expected for July. The industry is also counting on a good late autumn season, due to the foreseeable deterioration of West European weather conditions.

Several facts account for the present situation of Tunisian tourism.

First, perturbations of the traditional market as a result of mutations in the European tourism distribution networks (especially in Great-Britain and in the FRG); these are due to the difficulties experienced by the tour operators with whom Tunisian hotels collaborate.

The World Soccer Championship had a detrimental effect; potential tourists chose to stay home to watch championship games on TV.

This had repercussions on tourism:

- Because of economic difficulties, tourists' home countries took measures to encourage their nationals to spend their vacations in their own countries.

- The competitiveness of the Tunisian product is declining. During the first two years [as published], Tunisian hotels increased their prices by 8.5 percent in 1981 and 15.9 percent in 1982, whereas Spanish prices remained unchanged during the same period; the trend of the quality/price ratio is not in our favor.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Tourists</u>			<u>Variation 1982/1981</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	
Total	501,042	714,588	558,213	- 21.9%
Algerians	73,382	282,685	128,799	- 54.4%
Subtotal (less Algerians)	427,660	431,903	429,411	- 0.6%

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Algerian Tourists</u>			<u>Variation 1982/1981</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	
January	10,338	38,413	25,833	- 32.7%
February	6,686	44,058	24,953	- 43.4%
March	17,606	69,196	60,155	- 27.5%
April	17,426	54,585	20,798	- 67.8%
May	22,335	66,436	7,060	- 89.4%
Total	73,382	282,685	128,799	- 54.4%

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Foreign Tourists</u>			<u>Variation 1982/1981</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	
January	55,975	81,221	69,946	- 13.9
February	62,816	98,668	80,290	- 18.6
March	117,707	154,903	141,552	- 8.6
April	125,376	195,277	136,151	- 30.3
May	139,171	184,519	130,274	- 29.4
Total	501,042	714,588	558,213	- 21.9

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Number of Entries</u>			<u>Variation</u> <u>1982/1981</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	
January	472,615	487,847	437,985	- 10.2%
February	527,628	479,422	474,803	- 0.9%
March	841,817	760,691	818,523	+ 7.6%
April	1,080,034	1,209,134	1,113,379	- 7.9%
May	1,130,296	1,168,889	1,160,000	- 1.0%
June	<u>1,345,087</u>	<u>1,382,337</u>	<u>1,188,069</u>	- 14 %
Total	5,397,477	5,488,320	5,192,759	- 5.4%

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CSO: 4519/55

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NEW MUNICIPALITY MEMBERS

GF221546 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Speech delivered by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, during the opening session of the second meeting of the municipality councils at the Policy Officers Club in San'a' on 22 November]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, and prayers and peace be upon His honest and faithful prophet. Brothers, on this occasion, in the name of the leadership, the government and the members of the General People's Congress, I thank and appreciate all the masses for their response to the democratic steps in our country and for the magnificent response to the elections of the municipality councils in all the provinces of the republic. This reflects the civilization feeling of our Yemeni people. I also thank the brother chairman and members of the Supreme Committee for the elections of the municipality councils for the second election period, and the supervising and branch committees in all the republic's provinces. On this occasion, I would like to congratulate the brothers elected and appointed members for the valuable confidence granted to them by our Yemeni people, who selected them as members of the municipality councils. God bless you all and God bless our people for these democratic steps which have emerged from the will of the people. I wish the brother members of the municipality councils success in their tasks resulting from the valuable confidence granted to them by the citizens. I wish them success in their coming tasks. I hope that they now understand well their major tasks in accordance with the law on elections for the municipal councils in order to learn from the past mistakes of the previous brother members of the municipal councils and the Municipality and Housing Ministry as well. We do not mean to say that the brother members of municipality councils are solely responsible for the shortcomings; the Municipality and Housing Ministry and the directors of all the municipal councils and in the provinces and liwas [districts] are more responsible for these shortcomings, because as they say everyone of them is responsible before the law. The councils and the Municipality and Housing Ministry and its branches in the provinces are all responsible before the law. However, I think that the brothers who applied for the membership in the municipality councils in the second election period would not have applied if they had not understood the law well. These brothers should make use of previous negative effects.

I ask the brothers in the Council of Ministers, the Municipality and Housing Ministry and the governors of the liwas to support and assist the brother members of the municipality councils. We in the leadership will assist the brother members of the municipality councils to enable them to carry out their tasks successfully in accordance with the law on the establishment of the municipality councils. May these great, magnificent and important democratic achievements, which came about during 1982 under the shadow of the eternal 26 September revolution, do our Yemeni people much good. In 1982, as a result of the confidence and fusion of the masses and their support for the leadership, the national charter, the convening of the General People's Congress and election of the Standing Committee were achieved. These are important and great achievements, which our people were looking for before and after the revolution. This dream was realized in the approval of the national charter. Also, a month or two earlier, the administration board of the Union of the Yemeni Students in San'a' University was elected. This election, in which more than 7,000 students participated, was carried out without the supervision of a single policeman at the gate of the university. The election was carried out in a spirit of democracy and understanding--a spirit of democracy, understanding and political conscience of the students.

I wish you success in your tasks and thank you.

CSO: 4400/94

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ARAB AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE ENDS IN SAN'A'

GF230744 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The 12th session of the Council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development that was held in San'a' from 20-22 November under the auspices of the brother president and leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has ended. The session's decisions and recommendations included:

1. The ratification of the organization's working plan for 1983 which will provide for pan-Arab studies in the field of vegetable, fruit and animal resources and the definition of agricultural technical terms used in the Arab homeland, at a cost of \$725,000. The plan will also provide for a study in each Arab country at a cost of \$50,000 for each study, with the figure doubled for less developed Arab countries.
2. The allotment of \$250,000 for the Palestinian martyrs' children project Samid.
3. The ratification of the financial committee's report, the final statement of accounts and the report of the organization's financial work for last year.

The council has approved the organization's general budget for 1983. It called upon the member countries to pay special attention to food security plans and to start to make contacts with Arab and international financing funds in order to finance projects in coordination with the Arab organization for agricultural development.

CSO: 4400/94

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT WRITES FOR 'AL-MITHAQ'--Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today wrote in the first issue of the weekly AL-MITHAQ in which he stressed that our information policy does not contradict with our desire to increase and expand press associations. He said: That is why we issued the law on regulating the press, the law which guarantees freedom of the press and prescribes its responsibilities because the formation of the General People's Congress was a great revolutionary accomplishment. It plays the primary role of political and social administration based on control of political action and the implementation of the values and ideology of the national charter, especially in this important historical stage in which important decisions are being made such as approving the national charter in its final form and strengthening the General People's Congress and its statutes. The brother president also asserted that the continued crystallization of the information media's activities will certainly lead us to the objective which is inherent in the people's consciousness. [Text] [GF230458 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 82]

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